

Iran urges Muslim movements to work within laws

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian President Akbar Rafsanjani urged Islamic movements on Wednesday to work within international law, saying democracy was on their side. Mr. Rafsanjani put forth his pragmatic view of the role of Islam in a changing world at the opening session of a gathering in Tehran of supporters of Iran's Islamic revolution.

"The Islamic movement does not need to rebel against the international order," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying. "We can work within the limits of international regulations. The time is ripe for Islamic movements since imperialism is entrapped in contradictions and we must take advantage of it." Mr. Rafsanjani, whose views are opposed by Iranian hardliners as too soft towards the West and conservative Muslim governments, said Islam should prove it can govern by striking a balance between material and spiritual aspects of life. "How different is it from the middle ages when the world today ignores the rights of 70 to 80 per cent of the Algerian people," he asked, referring to the scrapping of elections in Algeria after Muslim fundamentalists scored a big victory. The West, Mr. Rafsanjani said, was acting against its long-standing slogans of democracy and people's sovereignty.

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Court sentences 4 robbers to hang, then be crucified

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A court has sentenced four armed robbers to be hanged and then their bodies crucified under Sudan's strict law, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The official Al Ingaz Al Watani said a special tribunal headed by Col. Ali Mirghani passed the sentence on Abdullah Muhammad Juma, Dawood Musa Ibad, Bakar Al Deen Oro Lay and Hussein Jadin Kahida in Darfur state in western Sudan. The court sentenced 10 others convicted of the same crime to prison terms between 10 and 13 years, the newspapers said. The four sentenced to death were being tried for killing four villagers during a 1986 robbery. The thieves shot and killed the villagers after they caught them stealing camels from their hamlet in Darfur. The government of Gen. Omar Al Bashir has vowed to put an end to armed robbery in Darfur. Such incidences as well as tribal conflict have plagued the province. Last month a similar court passed the same sentence on four people involved in an armed robbery. The sentences have to be endorsed by Gen. Bashir.

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Moscow conference breaks into working groups Palestinians say U.S. position 'imposed'; Jordan participates in 5 working groups

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The United States and Russia, trying to bridge a rift at the Moscow Middle East peace talks, urged Israelis Wednesday to accept participation by Palestinians from outside the occupied lands.

But Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel was still insisting that only Palestinians from the occupied territories could take part. Palestinians tentatively welcomed the proposal but gave no final answer.

It was a softening of the formula worked out for two previous Middle East peace conferences in Madrid and Washington, in which participants accepted Israel's demand for exclusion of Palestinians from the diaspora or East Jerusalem.

The Moscow round was formally a multilateral session that concentrated on regional issues of environment, arms control, economic cooperation and refugees. An eight-member Palestinian delegation arrived but never set foot inside the hall because it contained members rejected by Israel.

The United States as late as Wednesday morning said it was supporting Israel's position. But after meeting in the evening with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Palestinians said the U.S. position had "changed and improved."

"They say Palestinian participation from the diaspora — but not Jerusalem — is necessary at least in the two working groups of refugees and economic cooperation," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Dr. Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation had submitted a memorandum to the co-sponsors demanding full Palestinian participation in the working groups.

Dr. Ashrawi said her delegation had also proposed the creation of two more committees, one on Jerusalem and the other on human rights.

"... We remain committed. We came here in good faith, we stay here in good faith. And following yesterday's positive development and the statements from both Secretary Baker and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on changing the Madrid formula, we immediately sent an official

memorandum to the sponsors in which we declared our serious intentions, our full commitment to the process and our request to participate in the working groups.

"We expressed our interest to participate in the working groups on water, on arms control, on environment, on economic development and on the newly-formed refugee working group, and we proposed the formation of two new working groups, one on Jerusalem, as an issue that has multi-lateral and multi-national significance, and we also proposed the formation of a working group on human rights because we feel in the course of emerging reality the end of the 20th century human rights is a value on the basis of which serious decisions are taken: political and economic decisions.

Dr. Ashrawi added: "We remain committed to the success of the peace process. We also maintain that for the multilaterals to succeed, effective and comprehensive Palestinian participation has to be ensured. But basically there has to be serious progress on the bilaterals. We have again to release the bilaterals from Israeli attempts from preventing any progress, since the political agreement is that which is going to lay the foundation for the progress and prosperity of the whole region, we have to ensure that an equitable and just political agreement is arrived at and that no efforts are going to be exerted in order to derail or procrastinate or prevent progress in the bilaterals."

Jordan on five groups

Jordan participated in the work of five working groups, according to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

He said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan was represented at the working groups on arms control, economic development, water sharing, environment and refugees. He said Jordan is also member in the conference's steering committee.

These working groups also group several countries including the conference's co-sponsors, the U.S. and Russia, but other states were welcome to join in, the

minister said.

He said that during Wednesday's meeting the working groups concentrated their attention on the agenda and the place and time frameworks for future meetings.

Dr. Abu Jaber Wednesday met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. The two ministers discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Russia and the peace process, with special emphasis on Palestinian representation in the multilateral talks.

"The meeting focused on the issue of Palestinian representation," Dr. Abu Jaber said following the meeting. "We asked Minister Kozyrev to respond to demands by the Palestinian brothers on the need for them to participate in the coming stage of the multilateral negotiations, particularly the diaspora Palestinians," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber met also with Chinese deputy foreign minister who headed his country's delegation to the multilaterals. Discussion at the meeting centred on ways of enhancing Jordanian-Chinese relations.

Dr. Abu Jaber also met former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Russian Vladimir Petrovsky, a member of the Russian delegation, said in a statement released at a separate news conference, that "it is quite possible (to change) the currently accepted Madrid formula, but only when separate negotiating teams start working on separate regional issues, including the problem of refugees."

Earlier, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa met separately with Palestinians and other Arab delegates and then told reporters that Egyptians "have reason to believe the Palestinians will attend future meetings of the multilateral talks, since the co-sponsors have announced this problem has been resolved."

However, Mr. Levy told reporters at another briefing that Israelis "stand by what was agreed and we won't deviate from it ... The moment you deviate, it's an erosion and a precedent."

The shift in positions was the biggest development from the talks that already had produced

an agreement between Israeli and Arab negotiators to hold a series of committee meetings this spring in cities around the world.

After an opening session on Tuesday, negotiators met on Wednesday in what they described as businesslike, rhetoric-free meetings of working groups on the regional issues that were intended to engender more trust among the countries.

The talks formally ended at 4:45 p.m. (1345 GMT), after a final plenary session, a member of the Egyptian delegation said. Delegates said they agreed to meet again around the end of April or beginning May, after the Jewish Passover and Muslim Ramadan holidays, and determine the final dates for future talks.

They said the programme approved by a steering committee — which had collected reports from individual groups — calls for a meeting on refugees in

Canada; on economic cooperation in Belgium; and on arms control in the United States.

It was also decided that Japan will send a fact-finding mission to the Middle East to explore environmental problems. They also will decide where to meet in the future, despite an earlier report that it would be held in Japan.

According to the delegates, many other countries have expressed their interest in hosting future meetings. Parties to the talks also supported a U.N. involvement at the future stages of negotiations.

Yehoyada Haim, Israel's chief delegate to the refugees committee, said the European Community representative called for the inclusion of the United Nations as well as Palestinians who do not live under Israeli occupation.

Mr. Baker has acknowledged there is merit in including

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Kabariti: Jordan committed to just, comprehensive peace

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan said Wednesday its decision to participate in the multilateral talks despite the absence of Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon is another manifestation of its commitment to efforts to bring just and comprehensive peace to the region.

"Our commitment to a comprehensive and just peace based on principles of international legitimacy is firm," Labour and acting Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Commenting on a statement issued Tuesday by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharara, in which he indirectly criticised Jordan's participation in the multilateral talks, Mr. Kabariti said: "The departure of Jordan's stand from that of Syria truly does not constitute a point that could be interpreted as a contradiction in policies between the two countries."

"If one looks at matters with

good intentions, then I believe we are one team and that differences among any team is a healthy matter," he added.

Mr. Sharara, addressing a Syrian cabinet meeting Tuesday, had contended that the absence of Syria, Lebanon and Palestinians from the multilateral talks would reduce the Arab losses.

A Syrian official quoted Mr. Sharara as telling the cabinet that the Moscow talks would harm Arabs and only benefit Israel. He was also quoted as noting that only one Arab country was enthusiastic about the Moscow talks. He did not name the country, but reports quoted diplomats as saying that he meant Jordan.

Mr. Kabariti said that coordination on Middle East peace talks was still possible in spite of differences. "If coordination were to take place, despite differences, then it is possible that this coordination would benefit the Arab negotiator," Mr. Kabariti said.

Democrats blast president Bush starts election campaign with State of Union address

Special from Washington

AS EXPECTED, President George Bush's State of the Union address to Congress Tuesday night was very much an election speech. To the extent that it was a response to Americans' complaints about the state of the union, Bush's speech may help smooth the way for his campaign for reelection in November.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bush' hour-long speech outlined a fairly detailed domestic agenda which might help counter criticism of the president for not having a plan on the domestic front. But in contrast to last year's State of the Union address, which followed a military victory against Iraq, the president's speech touched very briefly on the Middle East to point out that America's policies in that region were vindicated. The U.S.'s "prudent use of power" had liberated Kuwait, freed American hostages and had brought Arabs and Israelis together to "talk seriously and comprehensively about peace."

In addition to taking credit for the above developments,

President Bush said the cold war did not merely end but "it was won" by the U.S. The president called for additional cuts in military spending which were started two years ago in response to changes in the new era of decreased threats from the Soviet Union. He announced a plan to rid the world of land — based multiple-warhead nuclear missiles. His plan would eliminate all Peace — keeper missiles, remove multiple warheads from the Minuteman, reduce by one-third the number of D-5 multiple warhead missiles in Trident submarines, cancel the Midgetman missiles, halt purchases of advanced cruise missiles this year and stop production of the B-2 once 20 planes are built. The reduction will save an additional \$30 billion over the next five years, he said. But the president warned that he would cut "no deeper" because to cut more "would be ignorant of history."

Although little of what came in the speech was new — officials revealed some of his plans much before the speech — the president's address is likely to help him overcome the image

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Israeli elections likely on June 23

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir agreed in principle with the opposition Labour Party on Wednesday to hold a general election on June 23.

A leader of Mr. Shamir's ruling Likud Party said the date was fixed although a Labour Party spokesman said the agreement would have to be approved by Labour leaders on Thursday.

An election is due by Nov. 3 but Mr. Shamir has been seeking an earlier date since losing his majority in parliament last week. Two far right-wing parties quit his coalition in protest at autonomy plans for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Shamir, anxious to receive U.S. aid, has vowed to pursue U.S.-backed Middle East peace

efforts despite an election. "It was agreed on 23 June," Sarah Doron, head of the Likud parliamentary faction told Reuters.

"The Labour Party asked to approve it tomorrow but I would say almost certainly there is agreement," she said.

Labour failed on Monday to topple Mr. Shamir's 59-61 minority government with a barrage of no-confidence motions in the Knesset when the coalition's right-wing defectors abstained.

Mr. Shamir needs a majority to pass a bill dissolving the 120-seat house. The last election was in 1988.

The election agreement coincided with the fourth round of Middle East peace talks, this time in Moscow.

India establishes full relations with Israel

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India announced Wednesday it is establishing full relations with Israel, reversing a 40-year policy of diplomatic exclusion for the Jewish state.

An announcement by Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit said the upgrading of relations was effective immediately.

After Israel instituted diplomatic ties with China on Saturday, India had been the largest and most powerful country still withholding full relations.

The move had been an issue of heated debate for several months, as India hoped for a seat at the Middle East peace conference but Israel insisted on first establishing full ties.

The multilateral phase of the conference opened in Moscow on Tuesday without India to discuss practical problems, such as water sharing and the environment.

Until now, India linked relations with Israel to a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory.

The announcement was made hours before Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was to leave for the United States to attend a summit meeting of U.N. Security Council members.

The U.S. government and its embassy in New Delhi had been lobbying hard for India to establish ties with Israel.

The decision was conveyed a week ago to Israeli consul Giora

Becher. Mr. Becher was summoned to a meeting with Mr. Dixit as Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was concluding a visit to New Delhi, sources said.

Mr. Arafat apparently had been informed of the decision. At a news conference Dec. 21, he said: "recognition is an act of sovereignty in which I cannot intervene. I respect any choice of the Indian government."

Mr. Dixit said the embassies would be opened "as soon as physically feasible."

He said India's decision had been sent to Tel Aviv and Moscow, where Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is attending Middle East peace talks.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Forces chief Field Marshal Fathi Abu Talib during the King's visit to the Armed Forces headquarters

King undergoes minor surgery on right leg

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday successfully underwent a minor surgery on his right leg at the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Dr. Samir Farraj, His Majesty's private doctor, said a small lump, on the back of the knee, that turned out to be a benign ligament, was successfully operated on. King Hussein's condition was described as excellent by the doctor who said that a speedy recovery was expected.

However, the King has to

stay for two or three days in hospital for recuperation, the doctor added.

The Royal Court, which had issued a statement early Wednesday, said they "pray to God to protect His Majesty the King and grant him health and guide his steps as a father, brother and leader of all the people of Jordan."

The King, who was conscious during the procedure, thanked the Jordanian people for their concern.

The Jordan Times wishes His Majesty speedy recovery and good health.

Earlier Wednesday, the King called at the Jordan Armed Forces general headquarters and met with Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleh, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker attended the meeting, during which matters of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces were discussed.

King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, his military secretary.

Amnesty accuses Israel of torturing Palestinians; U.S. urges U.N. body to take it easy on occupying power

GENEVA (R) — The United States on Wednesday urged a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission to refrain from passing resolutions condemning Israel that could undermine current Middle East peace talks.

Kenneth Blackwell, head of the U.S. team, made the call as the 53-nation commission debated for the 25th successive year human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

He urged delegates not to use the debate as a propaganda forum. "This year above all others, let's give peace a chance."

He said the United States was concerned about a number of Israeli practices in the occupied territories, including excessive use of force and deportations as well as by violence against Israelis and inside the Palestinian community.

"Violence will not bring achievement of Palestinian rights. Rather, it continues to be counterproductive and a threat to the

peace process, especially now with the parties committed to negotiation," he said.

Mr. Blackwell also condemned continued Israeli settlement in the territories as "another obstacle to peace."

But he said: "There is no point in a sterile debate on the legality of the settlements."

"Resolutions urging International Court of Justice consideration of this issue not only miss the point — which is that this is an issue that can only be resolved as part of a comprehensive settlement — but are a distraction that could undermine the peace process."

The commission has repeatedly condemned Israel for its treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which it occupies since 1967.

Introducing the debate, U.N. Human Rights chief Jan Martenson said there had been a deterioration in the human rights situation in the occupied territories since the Palestinian uprising began four years ago.

Palestinian observer Taisir Al Adjouri said Israel had not put a stop to any of the human rights violations recorded by the United Nations and said it had even stepped up its "arbitrary practices" since the Gulf war.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International told the commission Israeli authorities in the occupied territories systematically used interrogation practices "which clearly amount to torture or ill-treatment."

It said the methods included beatings all over the body, often concentrating on sensitive areas such as the genitals, sleep and food deprivation and confinement in small, dark cells known as "closets."

It said the ill-treatment was encouraged by the shortcomings of the Israeli justice system in the territories, where "detainees" access to judges is routinely withheld for 18 days and access to family and lawyers for much longer periods.

Army, youth clash in Algiers; one dead, 7 injured, 27 arrested

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Clashes between police and stone-throwing crowds broke out Wednesday in a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold. The state news agency said an elderly woman was killed and seven people injured.

The agency, which gave no indication how casualties occurred, said 23 people had been arrested. Police reported 27 arrests and issued no statement about injuries.

Witnesses said police had fired warning shots when crowds tried to prevent the arrest of two pro-fundamentalist clergymen. Rioting then broke out, they said.

State radio said skirmishes between police and youths continued for several hours in the Bachdjarah district in suburban Algiers.

"The sound of shots being fired in the direction of the rioters is

still being heard," the radio said in mid-afternoon.

Witnesses said the fighting erupted as police prepared to arrest two imams who support the Islamic Salvation Front. It was not clear if the arrests were carried out, but security forces sealed off the neighbourhood.

"Big reinforcements of riot police and civil police have arrived in the area and are keeping watch on the main road," the radio said. It said groups of youths were throwing stones and chanting anti-police slogans.

Witnesses said a mob of youths ransacked the district headquarters of the former ruling party, the National Liberation Front, and used looted furniture to build street barricades.

The Salvation Front has been the target of a crackdown by the military-backed leadership that

took power Jan. 11 and cancelled parliamentary elections that the fundamentalists were virtually assured of winning.

On Tuesday, police arrested Rabah Kebir, the Islamic Salvation Front's director of external relations. Mr. Kebir had signed Salvation Front communiqués since the arrest six days earlier of Abdul Kader Hachani, the movement's acting leader, for allegedly calling on soldiers to desert.

Police confirmed Mr. Kebir's arrest, but did not specify charges against him.

Security forces have made numerous arrests since the high state committee came to power. Arrests have stepped up since Friday, the Muslim holy day, when soldiers and police were out in force to enforce laws against political activity in and around mosques.

Pakistan shift irks Afghan radicals but Kabul is happy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Radical Afghan guerrillas voiced disapproval of their host Pakistan on Tuesday for backing United Nations efforts to end the Afghan civil war, but the Kabul government welcomed Islamabad's move as positive.

The harsh reaction came from main hardline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who called the U.N. plan for convening an Afghan assembly of representatives of sides in the war a conspiracy to reimpose former King Zahir Shah.

Mr. Hekmatyar is the most powerful of the hardline leaders based in Peshawar who have refused to accept peace plans that include a role for Kabul.

"Those who want to impose a regime on us from outside would be declaring war against us for which we are fully prepared," Hekmatyar said in a speech to exiled Afghan traders near the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar.

Pakistan announced on Monday its support for the U.N. initiative to organise an interim government as part of a settlement in Afghanistan and warned hardline guerrillas they could not hold the peace process hostage. U.N. sources in Islamabad said Pakistan's statement, made by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, was very important.

But some radical guerrilla groups said they saw a shift in Islamabad's long-standing policy

of support for them. They vowed to continue the 13-year-old war until they set up an Islamic government in Kabul.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said in Kabul the Pakistani move was "a positive and realistic step forward towards normalisation of relations between the two countries."

The official Bakhtar news agency quoted him as saying in an interview that Kabul was ready to reciprocate.

Mr. Hekmatyar, quoted by his Hezb-i-Islami party Afghan news agency, accused the United States of trying to impose a coalition government on Afghanistan, made up of what he called communists and Westernised Afghans, with Zahir at its head.

He called the proposed Afghan assembly a "conspiracy" of Washington and Moscow. But he said the plan would meet the same fate as that of a non-official Afghan peace conference that was due to have been held this week but was postponed after rival groups could not agree on who should be there.

Mr. Hekmatyar said he believed those who did not attend the Bonn conference would also reject the U.N. proposed conference.

Ittehad-i-Islami guerrilla party leader Abdurrahman Sayyaf called the U.N. peace plan an international conspiracy against Islam and said: "Our Jihad (Holy War) will continue

until a pure Islamic government is brought in Afghanistan."

After months of effort by Pakistan to weld the faction-ridden Mujahadeen guerrillas into a credible alternative to the government in Kabul, Mr. Kanju told a news conference in Islamabad on Monday that the United Nations offered the only way forward.

He called on guerrilla groups based in Pakistan to back U.N. plans for an Afghan assembly of representatives of all sides in the war. Pakistan would respect any decision taken on forming an interim government in Kabul, he said.

Western diplomats in Islamabad welcomed Pakistan's statement but were unsure about an early end to fighting.

"We must remember a directly-brokered peace settlement is only the beginning of the peace settlement," one diplomat said.

Although Pakistan has previously warned guerrillas they could be left behind if they did not join peace efforts, Mr. Kanju's statement was its clearest expression of support for U.N. plans for an assembly in Geneva or Ankara at the end of February.

Moderate leaders accept that if U.N. plans to end hostilities and hold elections are to work, they must talk to "good Muslims" from Kabul, but they fear being isolated.

Kuwait defends human rights record

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait defended its human rights record on Wednesday, saying there were no longer any abuses in the emirate.

"I can say now there are no human rights abuses... we are a civilised country," Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah told the daily newspaper Al Qabas.

Sheikh Ahmad admitted there had been human rights violations after the emirate was liberated from seven months of Iraqi occupation last February.

But he said the abuses had stopped once the government-in-exile returned and reasserted its control. Police violators had been punished and dismissed.

International human rights officials say Kuwait's prisons and detention centres are full following a crackdown on Arab nationalists perceived to be a security threat. The International Committee of the Red Cross is monitoring developments and says no one is deported against their will.

Kuwait wants to make its 600,000 nationals a majority in their own country and has set a Feb. 15 deadline for all non-Kuwaitis to begin processing residence permits.

Most of Kuwait's 400,000-strong Palestinian community left after losing government jobs because of perceived Palestinian sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Diplomats say the emirate's community of stateless Arabs, known as bedoons, has dwindled to about 100,000.

Baker runs risk in dispute with Palestinians

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is locked in a dispute with Palestinian Arabs that threatens to jeopardise the Middle East peace conference Baker arranged so painstakingly.

The Palestinians have rejected what appear to be his final terms for participating in the two-day discussion of regional problems.

The Palestinians boycotted the first day of talks Tuesday because members of their delegation were not allowed in. Israel is threatening to walk out if those Palestinians — residents of East Jerusalem or Palestinians from outside Israeli-occupied territories — are permitted to take part.

"If these people that we're opposed to will come, they will negotiate with themselves," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday.

Hanan Ashrawi, the West Bank literature professor who is spokeswoman for the Palestinians, said the Palestinians would never agree to a "truncated" delegation and that their "principles and dignity" were at stake.

Mr. Baker said the Palestinians were making a mistake and missing an opportunity. He offered a compromise, saying he would support the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora in any regional talks that followed the Moscow meeting, though not in the direct negotiations with Israel that are expected to resume next month.

The rules, Mr. Baker said in a statement to the conference, "should not be changed at the last minute if this entire process is to continue to have credibility with all of us."

The result is that some 24 nations are preparing to discuss the problems of Palestinian refugee camps at a meeting where no Palestinians are present.

They are examining another major conference topic, weapons proliferation, without Syria, whose acquisition of modern

Right and left in Israel say Moscow talks are useless

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli left and right-wing were in rare consensus Tuesday — the multilateral round of Mideast peace talks in Moscow are "meaningless."

The leftists said Israel should be discussing issues of substance — namely a resolution with the Palestinians — instead of wasting time on ceremony.

Extreme right-wing lawmakers said the multilateral talks would lead nowhere, since the only issues to be discussed are in the bilateral talks.

Yossi Sarid, a left-wing lawmaker, told Israeli Television that to advance the peace process Israel must "propose a serious autonomy plan, adopt the principle of land for peace, and stop settlement activity."

"As long as these things are not carried out, the talk is empty," he told the television.

The two-day talks which opened Tuesday in Moscow are to focus on issues of regional cooperation such as arms control, water, the environment, and the problem of Palestinian refugees.

Syria and Lebanon completely boycotted the talks, on the grounds that progress would first need to be made on bilateral issues, in particular the resolution of territorial disputes, before regional cooperation is possible.

Israel and the Arab states have yet to attain any tangible results from the bilateral peace talks which began in Madrid

and continued in Washington.

Israel had introduced a proposal to grant self-rule or autonomy for five years to the Palestinians in the occupied territories as an interim peace settlement.

But the left-wing is skeptical that the peace process can continue since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has lost his majority in parliament and early elections are almost certain in Israel.

Genia Cohen, a parliament member from the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party which bolted Shamir's government to protest the peace process, said the Moscow talks were "a joke."

Ms. Cohen told Israeli Television that no progress would be made at the multilateral talks since the real issue of Arab-Israeli peace was on the bilateral level, where no progress would be made.

"Nothing can be advanced there without progress in the bilateral talks," she said. "Any other talk is meaningless."

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer of the opposition Labour Party said "the government needs to focus only on one thing — an agreement for a transition period with the Palestinians."

He said on Israeli Television that there was no need for Israel and the Palestinians to travel all the way to Moscow to negotiate. "An agreement that can be reached here in Jerusalem within six months."

Baker's aides had to comfort themselves Tuesday night with the presence of 11 other Arab delegations, including Saudi Arabia. Two other, Algeria and Yemen, boycotted in solidarity with the Palestinians.

U.S. officials say Arab and Israeli delegates remain committed to the peace process in general, but acknowledged little could be accomplished in Moscow other than an exchange of information on environmental and other regional problems.

For weeks, the Palestinians had neither accepted nor rejected the invitation to the Moscow talks, tendered by the co-sponsors, the United States and Russia.

They accepted Monday, only to reveal a few hours later — with Mr. Baker settled for the night in his hotel suite — that their delegation would include residents of East Jerusalem and from outside the territories.

The eight Palestinian delegates who turned up in Moscow included three from the West Bank, two from Jerusalem and three from "the diaspora," as the Palestinians refer to the scattering of their people around the world.

The rules of the conference limit the Palestinians to residents of the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza. Suddenly, the work of the two-day meeting was in jeopardy.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Tuesday he called Faisal Hussein, the head of the Palestinian delegation and that "Jim Baker also took the telephone."

The Palestinians would not budge.

A senior U.S. official, searching for an explanation, said Tuesday he believed the Palestinians were under pressure to win concessions from the conference from their main constituency, Palestinians of the occupied territories.

Japanese company bids for Suez Bridge

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Japan's Penta-Ocean Construction Co. has made a \$130-million bid to build a bridge across Egypt's Suez Canal. Ismailia governor Ahmad Gowell said on Wednesday, The bridge would replace one destroyed by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war and would include railway tracks.

Ethiopia could reinstate anti-Mengistu coup officers

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian officers involved in a coup attempt against former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam could be given their jobs back after investigation, the state-run Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported on Wednesday. Marxist Ruler Mengistu crushed the 1989 coup bid by senior army figures lined of the country's long civil war, executing ringleaders and detaining about 180 military officers. A newspaper recently quoted a group of soldiers who said they had garrisoned 13 coup leaders in Mengistu's presence. Surviving officers were released after Mengistu's ouster by rebels eight months ago and told to await further directives, ENA said. But the officers and their families, who petitioned government members this week, said they were no longer getting food rations. ENA said they were told they could go back to work "after investigations."

Emirates Airlines to fund jet under Islamic lease

DUBAI (R) — Emirates Airlines, owned by the government of Dubai, has awarded a mandate to Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation of Saudi Arabia to finance the leasing of an Airbus A310-300 aircraft under Islamic rules. An Emirates statement gave no details of the Islamic lease structure but said Al Rajhi, Saudi Arabia's leading Islamic Bank, was active in aircraft leasing worldwide. This would be Al Rajhi's first deal in the Gulf, it added. Emirates Airlines currently operates seven Airbus passenger planes and will take delivery of a four more aircraft from the European makers this year.

Iran denies it is recruiting nuclear scientists

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Iranian foreign ministry on Wednesday denied reports alleging Tehran was recruiting scientists from the former Soviet Union for a covert nuclear weapons programme Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an unidentified foreign ministry spokesman as saying the reports were "totally baseless." London's Sunday Times newspaper said in its last issue that Iran was offering \$360,000 to "some of the top brains in the former Soviet Union" to develop an alleged nuclear arms programme. Earlier reports in other newspapers have alleged that the Iranians had actually bought nuclear bombs from the newly independent republics and arranged for them to be shipped to Iran. Iran already has denied those reports. The foreign ministry spokesman said allegations about recruiting scientists were engineered by Israel to justify buildup of its own nuclear stockpile. The spokesman stressed that Iran was a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty, and that it was "also one of the most active nonaligned countries concerning the ban and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." The Iranians have only two nuclear power plants. One is a small research reactor bought from the United States before the revolution, and installed at Tehran University. The other was another research reactor recently bought from China. Iran is

believed to be about a decade away in being able to build an atomic weapon. Experts say Iran already has several good scientists capable of manufacturing the bomb. They say its main impediment is lack of enriched fissionable material, the vital ingredient needed to start off the chain reaction which causes an atomic explosion. There have been unconfirmed reports that Iran has been trying to acquire enriched uranium from France and a handful of third world countries that have nuclear plants capable of enriching uranium to the necessary purity.

Man to face trial in slaying of former Iranian hostage

VICTORVILLE, California (AP) — An ex-convict was ordered to stand trial in the slaying of an ex-marine who was one of the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran. Anthony Maddox, 21, was charged with murder and robbery in the November shooting death of former Marine Sgt. John D. McKel Jr. Authorities said Maddox robbed a woman and chased her to McKel's apartment, where he killed McKel during a struggle. A month earlier, Maddox was paroled from prison after serving two and a half years for armed robbery. Maddox was arrested in November. He was ordered to stand trial after a hearing Tuesday, McKel, 38, was held hostage in Iran for 444 days from 1979 to 1981.

Turkish bar owner becomes fifth foreigner shot in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — A gunman shot and wounded the Turkish owner of a snack bar in Stockholm on Tuesday in the fifth attack this month against foreigners living in Sweden. Police said the 30-year-old Turk was seriously ill in hospital after the shooting similar gun attacks this month. Swedish federal police chief Bjorn Eriksson expressed alarm about the wave of attacks but said police had no firm leads so far on the assailants. The media says police are investigating right-wing extremist groups.

Official denies Foreign Office knew about Iraq's supergun

LONDON (AP) — A senior official denied Tuesday that the Foreign Office knew about Iraq's attempt to build a huge cannon capable of firing shells as far as Israel with British-made parts. John Goulden, assistant under secretary at the Foreign Office, told the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee it did not hear about the project to build the giant gun until November 1989. The gun was to have been several hundred metres long, with a barrel diameter of 99 centimetres. After the Gulf war, U.N. inspectors destroyed a smaller, working supergun that was 52 metres long and had a barrel 50 centimetres across. Legislator Doug Hoyle noted that evidence given to the committee previously indicates British intelligence services knew about the Iraqi project all along. Mr. Goulden said the Foreign Office did not have firm evidence to link two British manufacturers to the project until March 1990. The former managing director of one of the companies, Walter Somers, said last week it had no export license for its 10-metre long steel tubes, but he said he believed the government had approved the sale. Walter Somers and Sheffield Forgemasters made sections of the gun that were found by customs officials at Teesside in Northeast England in April 1990. Goulden said the orders for steel pipes were never referred to a government committee on export licenses for Iraq. The committee included members from the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence and Department of Trade and Industry.

Somalia ready for cease-fire

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Both tribal warlords battling for control of Somalia's capital have indicated they are ready to end the urban fighting that has claimed thousands of lives in the past two and a half months, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

President Ali Mahdi Mohammad's interim government gave the United Nations assurances Monday that it would accept a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire, the U.N. announced.

Gen. Mohammad Farrah Aidid, the United Somali Congress leader who is battling the interim government, said in a speech Sunday that he also "was prepared" to accept a ceasefire, U.N. Undersecretary-General James J. J. said.

However, Gen. Aidid said that any new transitional government should not include Ali Mahdi's faction. This is contrary to the Security Council resolution adopted Thursday, Mr. J. J. said.

Mr. J. J. said U.N. officials in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, had received copies of Gen. Aidid's speech.

The Security Council resolution calls for all parties "to promote the process of a political settlement in Somalia."

The resolution imposed an arms embargo on against combatants in the Somali civil war and urged all warring factions to agree to an immediate ceasefire. Gen. Aidid was the key bolded resisting a settlement. Ali Mahdi's interim government had already called for a U.N.-enforced ceasefire.

Mr. J. J. said the text of the Security Council resolution is being delivered to Gen. Aidid and other Somali political leaders. He said the United Nations is awaiting an official written agreement to the resolution's terms.

Iran warns Turkey of the 'wrath of Muslims'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran warned Turkey on Wednesday of the "wrath of Muslims" after Turkish Television showed a film which Tehran says insults the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"This is at odds with good neighbourliness and common interests of the two countries..." Tehran Radio quoted parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karubi as saying.

Mr. Karubi warned Turkish leaders to "watch their actions and the wrath of Muslims, even inside Turkey," it added.

His remarks seemed certain to raise tension between the two Muslim neighbours which have generally maintained good relations despite their different systems of government.

The Iranian foreign ministry summoned the Turkish ambassa-

dor to deliver an official protest.

Tehran newspapers denounced Turkey and demanded an apology over the film screened on Saturday.

Resalat newspaper said Tehran should cancel Turkish President Turgut Ozal's visit next month if Ankara did not apologise.

"In this film the worst insults are made against the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeini," Jomhuri Eslami newspaper said.

The film was produced in the United States and starred Iranian actors who went into exile after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, according to the Iranian News Agency IRNA.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Farhat Ataman said in Ankara that Turkey was looking into

Iran's objections to the screening by its state television of the film, which is entitled "Threat."

"Iran has expressed its objections and regrets to our envoy in Tehran. We are looking into it," Ataman said.

A television official, commenting on the film, told Reuters: "It is an action-adventure movie and was earlier inspected for objectionable parts."

A Turkish foreign ministry source said Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati would attend a Feb. 5-6 ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) in Ankara.

The meeting will prepare for summit talks to be held in Tehran on Feb. 16 by ECO members Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

Up to 40 new Jewish settlements planned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jewish settlers opposed to Palestinian self-rule said on Wednesday they have drawn up plans for about 40 new settlements in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The settlers said they feared Israel could give in to pressure from its guardian ally, the United States, to curb settlements in exchange for a much-needed \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees.

"The way that autonomy is put forward today, it is an interim step to establishment of a Palestinian state so we are against autonomy," said Bob Lang, an American-born spokesman for the Settlers' Central Council.

Washington considers settle-

ments an obstacle to Middle East peace. A settlement freeze is demanded by Arab states and Palestinians taking part in unprecedented negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Lang said most of the planned 40 settlements already had government approval in principle but further approval was needed for building to start.

About 100,000 settlers live in guarded enclaves among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the territories Israel captured in 1967.

Military sources said on Wednesday the army planned to give the settlers greater policing powers to combat attacks by Palestinians.

Under new army regulations, settler reservists will be on call to aid the army in event

of an attack. Military sources said they will be allowed to set up roadblocks, fire flares and guard settlements. They did not rule out allowing the settlers a more active role in search and arrest operations.

"We are aware of the sensitivity of this. But we want to react as quickly as possible. It's natural if they live there," one source told Reuters.

In the past, settlers have been restricted to civil guard duty within their enclaves.

Palestinians opposed Middle East peace talks have shot dead three settlers and an Israeli in ambushes since last October.

Small groups of armed vigilantes have staged reprisal raids on Arab towns and villages after attacks.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Documentary "Adoption"
18:35 News in French
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 The Simpsons
20:00 NBA Basketball
21:15 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Eyes of Wilma"

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fajr
06:27 Sunrise
11:49 Dhuhr
14:45 Asr
17:11 Maghreb
18:30 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772641

St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751

Assuan International Church Tel. 827981, 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be cloudy and rainy at times and winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh, becoming during the day southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy and dusty and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, while winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

Amman Min/max temp. 3/11
Aqaba 9/20
Deserts 1/12
Jordan Valley 10/17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bahajal Badr 849362
Dr. Mohammad Sayma 603340
Dr. Hassan Zaghloul 898140
Dr. Hassan Mansour 748368
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

ZARQA:

Dr. Yahya Al Tarifi (—)
Khalilkh Pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 661146
Complaints 661146
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilic Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine 664164/6
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 607227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661273/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mushar 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/8
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323

ZARQA:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Sharif Zeid calls for financial restraint

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday issued a circular to all government institutions calling on them to abide by given regulations concerning the implementation of various parts of the 1992 fiscal budget.

The statement said that all institutions should abide by the provisions of the budget law which was approved by Parliament, especially in matters related to finance. The prime minister said institutions should coordinate their work concerning expenditures with the Budget Department and should not exceed the allocations stated in the budget. He especially called for restraint on spending on electricity, water and fuel.

According to the communiqué, each department must submit a statement on its monthly financial situation.



HEALTHY GRADUATES — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday attended a ceremony for the graduation of 141 male and female nurses and midwives and distributed diplomas to the graduates who completed the three year training courses. The graduates were from the Rafidhah Islamic Nursing College in Yajouz near Zarqa and Nuseibeh Al Mazzeieh College in Irbid, founded in 1953 and 1984 respectively. Addressing the graduation ceremony held at the Al Hussein Youth City, Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh voiced the country's appreciation to the Queen for her continued efforts in sponsoring the Health Ministry's activities and for giving due concern to the process of recruiting and training nurses and midwives. The Ministry of Health has set up five nursing colleges to educate qualified nurses for the health centers and hospitals in the private as well as the public sectors, said Dr. Bataineh. Other speakers at the ceremony underlined the importance of the nursing profession to help the country attain the goal of health for all by the year 2000.

Government offices to close for holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj anniversary, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold a major celebration today at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman following Al Asr prayers.

The celebrations will include addresses and religious sermons to be delivered by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Minister of State for Parliament Affairs Atef Al Butoush, the Jordanian Armed Forces Mufti Noah Salman and Secretary General of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Ahmad Hlay Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has ordered the closure of ministries and government and public departments on Saturday in observance of the occasion.

Sheikh Tamimi said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that this occasion reminds the Arabs and Muslims of a unique event in the history of Islam. "This great event has emphasised the Arab and Islamic features of the Al Aqsa Mosque

and the blessedness of its surroundings," Sheikh Tamimi said. "This incident has linked both Al Aqsa Mosque and Al Masjid Al Haram Mosque in holy Mecca with a very strong bond of belief," he added.

He said Arabs and Muslims are and will build tightly to Al Aqsa Mosque in the holy city of Jerusalem no matter how many sacrifices they have to make.

The minister called on Muslims to pay more attention to this anniversary, especially at the present time when Al Aqsa Mosque is being exposed to many conspiracies. He called on Muslims to counter these conspiracies and to work on preserving the holy city's Arab and Islamic identity and to confront all attempts to Judaize the city.

The ministry, he said, has issued circulars to all its departments to give the occasion due attention and urged them to highlight it for the public.

The ministry will hold celebrations in all the governorates and sub-districts' centres on the occasion.

Seminar stresses women's role in protecting environment

AQABA (Petra) — A two-day seminar organised by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany opened in Aqaba Wednesday to discuss the role of women in environmental policies in Jordan.

The seminar, which is being held within a series of activities to promote public awareness about the need to protect the environment, will review several working

papers. Participants will hear a number of lectures related to the role of women in the course of protecting the environment from pollution, officials said.

Society President Ahmad Obaidat addressed the opening session, noting that there is nothing in the Jordanian Constitution that differentiates between men and women in duties and responsibilities. He urged various concerned institutions to promote the role of women in all sectors of society.

Lawzi receives Australian officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received Australian senator and noted archaeologist Karin Sowada. Discussion at the meeting centred on the situation in the Middle East, the latest developments in the peace process and cooperation between Jordan and Australia. Mr. Lawzi briefed Ms. Sowada on the democratisation process in Jordan. The meeting was attended by Australian Ambassador in Amman Robert Bowker. Ms. Sowada is on a month-long visit to Jordan to participate in excavations at Pella (Tabaqat Fahl) in the Irbid region

House refuses to lift deputy's immunity

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan times

AMMAN — In the first such case since the Lower House of Parliament was elected in 1989, a request from the Amman Court of the First Instance to lift parliamentary immunity of one of the deputies was denied by the House Wednesday.

Independent Islamist deputy, Yacoub Qarrash had been charged with endorsing a cheque in the amount of JD 16,800 which was drawn on Al Ahli Bank. Citing insufficient funds in the account of the original account holder, the bank refused to honour the cheque.

However, an out of court settlement had already been agreed upon and the House's Legal Committee felt that there was no evidence to prove that Mr. Qarrash was aware that the cheque he had endorsed would bounce for lack of funds.

"The decision we took will not prevent the trial of the deputy, it just delays the court trial until the end of this regular session of the House," one of the members of

the Legal Committee told the Jordan Times.

The Legal Committee had recommended that court proceedings against the Amman deputy were not urgent and could be postponed until the end of this regular session. Their recommendation said that a majority vote was taken after consideration of the facts of the case and listening to Mr. Qarrash's explanation.

The constitution provides senators and deputies with immunity from being arrested or tried while the House is in session unless it is decided, with an absolute majority, that there is sufficient reason for his arrest or trial.

"The case had been pending for six months before this regular session was resumed, why wasn't he tried during that time?" the Legal Committee member, who requested anonymity, said.

According to the charge letter written by the company's lawyer, Safwan Mbaideen, the cheque was endorsed by Mr. Qarrash on Aug. 8, 1991. He pointed out that an out of court settlement was reached on easy terms which

facilitate the repaying the amount of the cheque in monthly instalments of JD 700 a month.

"Before this settlement he would have been required to pay the full amount of JD 16,800 in only three instalments," the deputy pointed out.

Four members of the Legal Committee, including president Hussein Mjalli, had contested the committee's recommendation and called for lifting parliamentary immunity and allowing court procedures to take their course in the case against Mr. Qarrash. The trial was to take place Wednesday.

Mr. Qarrash's settlement agreement with the National Steel Industries Company Ltd. the party to which the cheque was originally endorsed, was seen by deputies as indication of the company's satisfaction with the intentions of Mr. Qarrash.

According to documents on the case which were attached to the Legal Committee's recommendation, Mr. Qarrash had allegedly received a cheque from Hafez Darwish Taqqash in the sum of

JD 16,800 and endorsed it to the National Steel Industries Company Ltd.

The cheque, when presented to Al Ahli Bank for collection, was returned for lack of funds. Legally, members of the Legal Committee argued, the court would have to prove that Mr. Qarrash was aware that Mr. Taqqash had given him a cheque which was not covered in the bank in order to find him guilty.

In a letter Mr. Qarrash sent to local papers to explain the case, he said that he had already repaid the company and that the personal case against him has been dropped.

"The sum of the cheque has already been paid as part of a settlement and personal charges were dropped on Nov. 18, 1991, before the regular session of the House was resumed," Mr. Qarrash said in a letter published in Al Dustour Wednesday.

A letter signed by the company in which personal charges against Mr. Qarrash were dropped was also published along with the letter.

However, despite the fact that Mr. Qarrash had paid the amount due to the company, he still has to face trial to answer charges from the public prosecutor.

Mr. Mjalli, the minister of justice and Karak deputy Yousif Mbaideen, central bedouin deputy Naief Al Hadid and Irbid deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, all members of the Legal Committee, had contested its recommendation.

They argued that the House was not mandated to decide whether the defendant was guilty or innocent, only to study whether the court case aimed at hampering the parliamentary duties of the charged deputy. Therefore, they said, the committee should allow the court to continue its proceedings in the case.

"We recommend that the House take a decision allowing the court to try House member Yacoub Qarrash in case number 091/4418 in Amman's Court of the First Instance," their written explanation for rejecting the Legal Committee's decision said.

Council to discuss water situation



Samir Kavar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers will dedicate its next meeting in the coming week to follow-up on discussions about the general water situation in the Jordan Valley region, according to a Cabinet statement Tuesday.

It said that once the discussion, which started Tuesday night, is over, the outcome will be referred to a ministerial committee on economic and financial affairs to study and submit a set of recommendations to the government for approval.

The statement followed a Cabinet session Tuesday evening during which Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kavar submitted a general report on the water situation and plans for the water sector in Jordan. The report contained clauses from various

departments affiliated to the Water Ministry with details about their activities, development of water resources, improving water quality, control and supervision of water resources, planning future resources and ways for rationalising water consumption.

Mr. Kavar also touched on the various underground and surface water sites being exploited and the use of water for industry and agriculture. The report outlined the ministry's policies on building desert dams to collect rain water, replacement of outdated and worn out water networks to prevent leakage and other related topics.

Cattle breeders, dairy firms reach agreement on purchase of surplus milk

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cattle breeders and dairy firms in Jordan have concluded an agreement that paves the way for the latter to absorb all the surplus milk from the markets.

The agreement was signed Wednesday by representatives of the two sides in the presence of Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh and Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf, whose departments were involved in long discussions with the concerned parties about a solution for the surplus milk.

Farmers used to complain that they used to sustain losses because no dairy processing firms wanted to take their surplus milk, according to a statement carried by the Jordan

News Agency, Petra. The agreement is divided into two parts, one running from March until October while the other covers the period between November and February.

It said the first agreement provides for the farmers societies to supply fresh milk on a daily basis to the dairy firms at the following rate: The Jordan Dairy Company will buy 24 tonnes in the first period and 20 tonnes in the second period, the Danish Dairy Company will buy 35 tonnes in the first period and 28 tonnes in the second period, the Al Ra'i Dairy Company will buy nine tonnes in the first period and six and a half tonnes in the second period.

According to the agreement, the dairy firms will pay 21 piasters for a kilo of fresh milk bought from the farms. The agreement provides for the farms to supply the required amounts of fresh milk on a daily basis. The dairy companies will have to abide by the amounts defined under the terms of the agreement on condition that the milk conforms to the Jordanian standards and specifications, the announcement said.

At the meeting, the two ministers and representatives of both sides discussed the dairy production situation in general and recommended that the Ministry of Supply retain a ban on the importation of dried milk for dairy companies.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Mahmood Al Obaidi at Alia Art Gallery — opening ceremony at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of the activities of the Goethe Institute in Amman at the Institute, Jabal Amman.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic play entitled "Galgamesh" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

TRIP

- ★ Trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology on Friday to the Roman Nymphaeum and the Odeon, downtown Amman, and to the Archaeology Museum and the National Heritage Museum at the University of Jordan. Departure from Amra Hotel at 9 a.m.

FILMS

- ★ French films entitled "Une Affaire de Femme" and "Le Dossier 51" shown respectively at 8 and 10:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.



Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. Tender No. 2/92

Supply Of 100 Heavy Duty Truck Tractors

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. invites interested suppliers to bid for the supply of 100 heavy duty truck tractors. A copy of terms, conditions and technical specifications can be bought from company's main offices in Jabal Amman opposite to the Tunisian Embassy during official working hours (8:00-14:00) excluding Fridays and official holidays starting from Thursday 30/1/1992.

Closing date for accepting offers is Thursday (1200 HRS), 27/2/1992.
Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co. Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 4/92 for supply of spare parts for its Mercedes trucks type (L&LS 2624) as per part numbers and quantities attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein — behind Ministry of Health — Opposite Al Fadel Ibn Abbas Mosque — Amman for a non-refundable fee of JD 160,000 (one hundred and sixty Jordan dinars) per a copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted not later than 2:30 p.m. (local Jordan time) on Sunday March 1st. 1992.

Chairman/General Manager
Hisham Asfour



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By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Iraqis face growing hunger and disease, and Saddam Hussein has focused their anger against the United Nations for not lifting an 18-month-old economic embargo that is squeezing them, travelers from Iraq say.

On Monday, Iraqi soldiers stood by as protesters roughed up U.N. weapons inspectors in Baghdad in an outgrowth of regular, government-staged demonstrations against the sanctions.

The U.N. Security Council has given Baghdad the go-ahead to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion to buy food and medicine.

But the government rejects that because 30 per cent of the money must go to Kuwait as reparations for the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

"I'm no longer able to feed my

family of three," said Abdul Wahab, who came to Amman seeking work after being discharged from the army.

"I left my family to fend for themselves with the rationed food while I look for a job in Jordan."

Food is distributed through a rationing system, but the amounts are inadequate for the average family, say Iraqis arriving from Baghdad.

Families must turn to the free market, where sky-high prices are beyond the reach of most of Iraq's 17 million people.

But these hardships barely touch the privileged elite in the army or the ruling Baath Party.

Travelers said that despite U.N. claims to the contrary, much of the food aid from international organizations ends up in the larders of the ruling elite.

Food aid given to the women's federation, youth movements and

other organisations as well as hospitals wind up in the homes of senior members of these groups and hospital officials, they said.

The travelers claimed that food marked as donated ends up on the black market for sale at high prices.

A 3-kilogramme can of milk powder that cost three dinars (16 cents) before the Gulf war now goes for 60 dinars (\$3.30), half the average monthly earnings of most Iraqis.

In the last six months, meat prices have doubled to 38 dinars a kilogramme (\$1.00 a pound) and a tray of eggs that cost 15 dinars is now 30 dinars (\$1.65).

These prices may look reasonable to Westerners. But to an Iraqi earning the equivalent of \$7 a month because of the dinar's nosedive, they're astronomical.

For the first time, Iraqis are buying single eggs instead of by

the tray, travelers reported.

"The food the government provides at subsidised prices isn't enough to feed half my family," said an Iraqi who would identify himself as Waheed.

"We managed to survive on the savings we had. But they're gone now. Many people sold their household goods to get cash for food. But the black market prices are going up so high there's nothing we can afford any more."

An Iraqi student who gave his name as Abbas commented: "If there's a hell on earth it's in Iraq for the average family. What crime has the Iraqi people committed to deserve this?"

High prices don't bother the army, which regularly gets pay hikes and bonuses.

Brigadiers are paid 5,000 dinars (\$277 at the free-market rate) a month and captains 3,000 dinars (\$166).

Thousands of ordinary soldiers made "mother of all battles heroes" by Saddam Hussein get a 1,000-dinar (\$55) bonus each month in addition to salary.

The United Nations says the sanctions will remain until Saddam Hussein is no longer in control.

But he clings defiantly to power, despite growing discontent as the hardships worsen.

The regime has become increasingly hostile to the Western media and refuses to provide visas to news organisations like The Associated Press.

An 87-member team of Western experts which visited Iraq last fall estimated that 900,000 children are malnourished, 118,000 of them badly enough that they are at increased risk of dying.

The independent international study team estimated the infant mortality rate has jumped from

22.7 deaths per thousand before the Gulf crisis to 80 now.

Iraq "desperately need not only food and medicine, but spareparts to repair basic infrastructure in electrical power generation, water purification and sewage treatment," the group reported.

The office of the U.N. Disaster Relief Coordinator recently cited increased gastroenteritis due to lack of water treatment and an increase in water-borne diseases such as typhoid as raw sewage spills into the streets.

The picture is different in Baghdad, where Saddam Hussein has strong support. Food, especially local fruit and vegetables, is plentiful at controlled prices.

Imported food, apparently smuggled through the U.N. blockade, is available — but at prices only the privileged can afford.

Not an impossible task

THE EXCLUSION of the Palestinians from days one and two of the Moscow multilateral peace talks illustrates quite vividly that the Palestinian side will continue to find itself between the hammer and the anvil for as long as the U.S.-sponsored peace process continues. From their point of view, the Israelis seek to deny Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the diaspora access to the Arab-Israeli bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations. The Israeli aim is not only to avoid jeopardising their hold on East Jerusalem and their persistent rejection of the Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip as relevant partners in the peace process but also to make it extremely difficult for the Palestinians to attend the peace talks in the first place. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir knows only too well that as long as other Palestinians are prevented from participating in the peace deliberations, the Palestinian party will be hard put to continue their involvement in the peace efforts. Obviously Shamir aims first and foremost to keep the Palestinian side out of the Middle East peace equation. That would explain, in part at least, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens's remark Tuesday, in the wake of launching the Moscow conference without the Palestinians, when he said: "They (meaning the Palestinians) will not be missed." Arens continued to describe the Moscow multilateral talks as one "between governments," and saying that the Palestinians "are not a government and will not be a government."

Against this backdrop, the Palestinians would have to decide whether to hand Shamir and like-minded Israelis a weapon by insisting on having Palestinian representations from East Jerusalem and the diaspora and then ending up staying out of the orbit of the peace talks whether bilateral or regional or to play it smart by not letting such an issue, albeit important, from impeding their involvement in the peace process. With Syria boycotting the Moscow meeting, and given the fact that the Palestinians had arrived at the verdict to attend the multilateral regional talks with great misgivings, the odds appear to be in favour of the Palestinians' staying away from the remaining part of the negotiations. Such an eventuality would add further strains to the peace effort and could torpedo the whole process before it gets to the serious business that it should tackle.

Fortunately enough, though, the news from Moscow last night indicated that the Palestinians and the co-sponsors were moving in the direction of a new accord on how to proceed from there. Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokesperson, told a packed press conference that the Palestinians wanted to participate in all five committees the Moscow conference formed and were asking for the formation of two more, on Jerusalem and human rights — a message that has been taken to mean that there is indeed progress taking place in the corridors of the Russian capital's Hall of Unions. The talk of progress is in fact all the more credible since the Americans have already reported that Palestinians from the diaspora will be able to join the Palestinian team in the committee on refugees and other working groups.

Should this turn out to be the case, an additional effort remains to be made in order to ensure the viability of the multilateral talks and hopefully their success. It is to bring Syria and Lebanon on board.

Jordan has done its best to produce a unified Arab position on the peace process and joint Arab attendance of its different phases. We have failed, as have so many others, to convince Syria to go to Moscow. But that does not mean that our efforts should stop where they bogged down. If the goal is comprehensive peace, everybody should be involved and remain engaged.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SPEAKERS at the opening session of the Moscow multilateral talks over the Middle East questions have unanimously called on Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Even the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reiterated the same tone noting that a peaceful settlement should be based on the two resolutions and stressing that this had always been the U.S. policy, the paper added. The speakers' call on the countries of the Middle East to cooperate in matters like water, the environment, disarmament and others, is supported by Jordan and the Arabs at large, but these can not be guaranteed to achieve progress and prosperity for the peoples of the region unless a just peace has been established first, said the paper. The whole world community gathered in Moscow Tuesday to give guarantees to Israel's peace with the Arabs, it added. It implemented the U.N. resolutions, said the paper. The paper added, the countries meeting in the Russian capital to help the Middle East enjoy peace and security also possess the power to force Israel to comply with the requirements of peace and to respect the international legitimacy. These countries, the paper said, realise that unless they force the Israelis to comply with the requirement of aspired peace, the Middle East will remain an arena of violence and injustice threatened by poverty, pollution fear and conflict.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday voiced his wholehearted support for a call by a group of housewives to boycott meat and to buy chicken and fish instead for their families. Suleiman Al Barmawi said that the call came as a result of the butchers' manipulations and the exorbitant prices of meat found in the market, making it impossible for the limited-income groups to buy. The writer said that the call should be backed by all men and women in Jordan and should prompt the Ministry of Supply to take action to bring down the meat prices and prevent further profiteering.

Time has come for Bush to deliver economic package

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After inflating hopes to extraordinary heights, President Bush now has to deliver.

After all the hype, Mr. Bush on Tuesday must produce a credible plan for economic revival and a convincing political manifesto for his sputtering reelection campaign.

It's going to be a tough sell when Mr. Bush takes his State of the Union address before recession-weary Americans, many who appear to doubt his leadership.

For nearly two months, Mr. Bush has teased voters with vague promises, all but declaring that his State of the Union will hold a magic formula for prosperity.

His message to voters in New Hampshire, where the recession has been devastating, was "I care" and "stay tuned."

Political strategists agree that Mr. Bush must spell out a clear economic message that reassures anxious Americans about their future.

He has to seize the initiative with a legislative agenda that throws Democrats on the defensive. The opposition party has been pounding Mr. Bush over the sluggish economy.

And he's got to do it with authority. It's a daunting assignment for a president who is uncomfortable with prime-time television speeches.

"He's got to give an awfully good speech as a speech.... both in terms of its rhetoric and its



delivery or he'll get panned," said Norman Ornstein, a presidential analyst at the conservative American Enterprise Institution. "If this is a typical State of the Union speech with modest proposals, his slide will continue."

Increasingly, polls show that Americans doubt Mr. Bush can cure the sick economy or that he has a plan to improve health care.

A majority of Americans believe that Mr. Bush's policies favour the rich over the middle class and that he spends too much

time on foreign policy. When Mr. Bush stands before Tuesday night's joint session of Congress, it will be far different from his last speech on Capitol Hill.

Last March 6, he stood in triumph, a conquering hero as he reported to the nation about the allied victory over Iraq.

His approval ratings in the polls leapt to nearly 90 per cent. Congress was intimidated. A little more than 10 months later, his poll rates have gone into

a free fall, dropping below 50 per cent, the lowest point of his presidency. Despite Mr. Bush's sagging popularity during this election year, no Democrat has electrified the voters.

The country is mired in the longest recession since the Great Depression. Unemployment is rising. Democrats are emboldened. Saddam Hussein mocks Mr. Bush. And his showcase trip to Japan was considered a disaster.

Tuesday's speech is crucial.

perhaps the most important of his presidency. His campaign staff circulated a memo calling it "the defining event of the Bush presidency, and therefore a key to successful reelection efforts."

Former White House Political Director Ed Rollins says: "This has to be his campaign theme. It's set up to be a political document. The way it's been staged it's his road map to victory and his road map to a second term."

Democrats are sure to say it doesn't go far enough. Some Re-

publicans already have been saying the same.

"White House aides worry that people are expecting too much. 'He's got a good plan,' a senior official said. 'That does not mean that simply delivering a speech, somebody snaps his fingers and everything's O.K. I don't think that has happened since God said, 'let there be light.'"

But Mr. Bush will try to make voters happy.

"He's expected to propose a middle-class tax break in the form of an increase in the personal exemption for families, a tax credit for first-time home buyers and a tax credit for lower-income Americans to buy health insurance."

"He'll also offer additional cuts in defence spending, increased incentives for business investment and a 90-day moratorium on many new government regulations."

And there will be spending increases for a string of popular programmes, such as pre-school education, environmental cleanup, space exploration and creation of new parks and recreation areas.

It's doubtful that Mr. Bush really has his heart in his economic mix of tax cuts and incentives.

Until his politically motivated about-face, Mr. Bush used to counsel that the best prescription for the economy was to do nothing — let the country pull itself up without adding to the deficit.

That might be good economics. But it's not good politics.

Mr. Bush belatedly realised that and now he's struggling to make up lost ground.

Aid to former Soviet Union stimulated by fears, self-interest

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fear, of chaos and nuclear weapons, and national self-interest have helped the world focus its attention on the hungry people of the former Soviet Union.

It doesn't take an excess of cynicism to draw that conclusion from the international effort to assist the newly independent states emerging from the ashes of the Soviet Union.

The extraordinary gathering of 47 nations to discuss how to help the former Soviet republics was a clear sign of a nervous world, of governments aware of the danger if economic hardship throttles the experiments in democracy.

The driving question at the aid meeting was: If not Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, then who? Another coup? The emergence of a leader in the mold of Stalin or Hitler, this time taking power with a vast arsenal of nuclear missiles?

The world has never seen anything quite like the collapse of communism. A global power suddenly dissolved of its own weight. There was no war, no revolution; the system just suddenly proved unworkable.

For its own survival, the world had to help. But much of the aid put forward the conference that met for two days in Washington last week was designed also to benefit their own domestic producers.

For example, the bulk of U.S. assistance is in the form of agricultural credits that permit the former Soviet republics to borrow money to buy commodities from U.S. farmers.

Eastern European states with



Boris Yeltsin

economies that were tightly bound for a generation to the Soviet Union fought to maintain ties to a potentially lucrative market.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland appealed to the aid conference to take into account "the legitimate economic and trade interests and the fragile central and east European states."

What worries those three countries is the possibility that Western aid would "have the effect of wiping out the largely diminished but still remaining trade possibilities" by pushing their products out of the marketplace in the former Soviet Union.

Even Lithuania, which won its freedom after facing down Soviet troops, complained about being excluded from the U.S.-sponsored aid conference.

Stasys Lozoraitis, the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States, noted his country has been donating food and medicine

to its former oppressors.

He said he wanted Lithuania's neighbours to the east to know that his country's absence from the aid conference "does not mean we are indifferent to their problems.... We also understand how dangerous it would be for us if instability led to upheaval in the former Soviet Union."

Germany repeatedly reminded other participants that its contribution was many times that of any other nation, a figure others noted was the price exacted for German unification.

Japan made it clear that any meaningful increase in its contribution is contingent on an agreement returning the Kuril Islands, occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Both Germany and Japan also made it clear they have a strong interest in helping the newly independent nations develop their oil reserves and other natural resources.

Boosting Russia's oil production was the best hope for the former Soviet republic to earn foreign currency reserves, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said.

Mr. Genscher also expressed the need to move quickly to bring the nuclear power plants scattered over the former Soviet territory up to Western safety standards and avoid a lethal accident such as the one at Chernobyl in 1986.

Mr. Genscher also was a leading advocate of finding a way to employ the nuclear scientists who were thrown out of work when the Soviet Union collapsed. Many of those scientists are being wooed by regimes such as Libya, Iran and Iraq.

North-South gap breeds seeds of environmental discord

By Shridath Ramphal

BANGKOK — There are many symptoms of a looming crisis in the environment: global warming, acid rain, ozone depletion, encroaching deserts, disappearing forests, soil erosion, depletion of clean water.

But in focusing on them, as we must, we risk missing the bigger picture, and the message it conveys. Attention to symptoms and avoidance of causes is invariably more pronounced among those who are so comfortable that change seems threatening than among those who have so little that change can only be for the better. Herein lie seeds of discord that could disable global action for survival.

The question of consumption is central to the environmental crisis. It is the human impact that is endangering the planet's capacity to sustain life. The human impact stems mainly from people's use, or waste, of energy and raw materials — and that varies vastly.

A quarter of the world's people, most of them in industrial countries, account for 80 per cent of commercial energy consumption; 20 per cent goes to the remaining three-quarters of mankind, mainly in poor nations.

On average, each person in a developed nation consumes 18 times the energy used by a person in a developing country. The high energy consumption of the rich causes vastly more pollution than the low consumption of the poor. Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is a major factor in environmental stress. Each North American produces 10 times as much carbon dioxide as each inhabitant of South or East Asia, excluding Japan.

The impact of industrial states on the biosphere can only be lowered if they reduce their consumption of energy and other resources. With determined effort, much can be done in this direction. Unfortunately, some of

the big energy users have actually been increasing their per capita energy consumption.

The real reductions in per capita consumption of commercial energy since 1970 have been in poor nations, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America — not as a matter of virtue but as population growth has outstripped economic growth.

The environmental crisis affects both developed and developing countries. But they face it from very different economic experiences and with vastly different capacities. The crisis is thus likely to be perceived quite differently, with potentially serious consequences for North-South relations.

The industrialised nations of the West enjoyed a period of remarkable prosperity in the 1980s. This created many undesirable environmental side effects, but it also provided the resources to tackle the problems. The more environmentally aware states have achieved measurably cleaner air, soil and water.

This contrasts sharply with the position of many developing nations, where poverty increased in the 1980s and where, for hundreds of millions of people, life has long been a struggle for survival.

When governments have to cope with heavy debt burdens, low commodity prices and protectionist barriers, sustainable development with due care for the environment becomes a distant objective. Poverty and degradation of the environment are now inextricably linked in a chain of cause and effect.

Some of the demands being made by affluent states — the preservation of tropical forests, for example, or the linking of aid and trade to environmental standards — provoke genuine fear in developing countries. The idea that poor nations should forsake opportunities for growth in order to attack problems caused largely by the imprudence and profligacy

of the rich is often seen as an attempt to preserve the global distribution of wealth and power.

The clamor in industrialised states for a ban on tropical hardwood is a case in point. There has been serious overexploitation of some tropical forests, and forestry industries must be subjected to economic disciplines leading to sustainable use. But to focus on this issue is to neglect the far more serious problem of forests retreating as growing numbers of poor people seek land for farming and grazing, and wood for fuel. This trend will probably accelerate if the trade in timber ceases to provide export income needed by developing nations to meet basic needs.

The United Nations Development Programme and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation estimate that eight times as much wood is removed from forests to provide fuel for poor families as for use by loggers.

Focusing on logging involves the relatively easy task of lecturing developing nations. Tackling the real problems involves the West in reducing commercial energy consumption and alleviating poverty in the developing world through development programmes.

Yet developing nations cannot ignore some forbidding issues. The counterpoint to consumption among the rich could well be population growth among the poor.

Unless developed states are willing to do much more to alleviate the burden of poverty, many developing nations will not move beyond their current hand-to-mouth existence.

This is a crucial time. If Western countries spurn the cries for help from the poor nations or treat the issues of environment, poverty and development in a parochial, self-serving manner, they could reap a bitter harvest. The International Herald Tribune.

Naji Al Ali debuts in Jordan

Nour El Sherif's film uses Naji Al Ali as 'key to other issues'

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When Egyptian film star Nour El Sherif decided to make a movie that depicts the Palestinian cause, he believed that the right way to portray it was by making a film about the life of the Palestinian political cartoonist Naji Al Ali, who was assassinated in London on Aug. 25, 1987.

"The film uses Naji Al Ali as a key to other issues," said Sherif. "I see Naji as the symbol of the Palestinian cause with its innocence."

The famous Arab movie actor, who was in Amman this week for the opening of the film Naji Al Ali, told journalists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Tuesday that what puzzled him and motivated him to make a film about the Palestinian cartoonist was the symbol he represented.

"I see him as the Palesti-

nian inside the occupied lands and in the camps," said Sherif, who plays the role of Mr. Ali in the film.

He recalled that when asked by some why he did not make a film about Palestinian soldiers fighting for their cause, Sherif's reply was: "as an artist, I felt closer to Naji. As artists we feel there is a burden that we need to tell the people. A soldier kills and dies for his cause. But for a thinker to be killed is what puzzled me and drove me to him."

Naji Al Ali was screened twice this week by Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation and the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada showed the film in Amman cinemas to collect funds to support the Palestinian uprising, and invited Sherif, also a producer of the film, to speak to audiences at a dinner. Twenty thousand



Nour El Sherif

Jordanian dinars have been raised for the event. The film, shot in Lebanon where Mr. Ali lived, also opened commercially at Cinema Plaza for the public Tuesday.

"I see Naji as an incredible symbol of a person's courage in putting forth his views," Sherif said. "Those who

know him through his work see that he was a revolutionary romantic, or a romantic revolutionary."

Mr. Ali was born in the village of Al Shajira in Palestine in 1938 and in 1948 was pushed out to live in the Lebanese refugee camp of Ein Al Hilweh. His murder in 1987 remains unresolved.

The cartoonist criticised all the Arab regimes through his drawings, including all the factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "How does Naji Al Ali, who only owns a paint brush and paper, pose such danger and create horror to so many regimes," asked Sherif, constantly referring to Mr. Ali in the present tense as if he, not only his cartoons, was still living.

While filming in Beirut last year, Sherif recalled a picture he saw at a Lebanese sculptor's exhibition of Mr. Ali's statue with a bullet hole through it, something he said gave him, "goose bumps."

Faris Sherbel, the sculptor, had made a 2.8 metre high statue of Mr. Ali and placed it in the Ein Al Hilweh Camp.

"The statue was assassinated with a live bullet," said the movie-maker. "And then it was thrown in the garbage because it was described as an 'idol' by the religious trends. The sculptor put it up again to photograph it and they demolished it again... In our Arab World, differences of opinion create a catastrophe."

When asked about reports that the film accuses the PLO of carrying out Mr. Ali's assassination, Sherif stressed the movie does not in any way accuse anyone of the killing. He said that the Western media and some Arab newspapers might have publicised these suspicions.

The actor added that this

was not a "police film" trying to solve a murder. He restated that Mr. Ali was "a key to present a number of issues: The Palestinian cause in a simple manner and not in its details" because the "Arab mind today cannot comprehend too much." He attributed this statement to what he described as the "terrifying rise in illiteracy and because of the Arab government media control that affects the people's minds."

Asked whether the Syrian army's involvement in the making of the film had provoked criticism that the movie was placing the PLO in suspicion of killing Mr. Ali, Sherif indicated that the Syrian army's help in the making of the movie was voluntary and no interference was made.

He cited a scene in Naji Al Ali during the withdrawal of the PLO forces from Lebanon in 1982 where real Syrian and some Lebanese soldiers were in the vehicles playing the role of the Palestinian soldiers. "Abu Ammar's (Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat) picture was on the vehicle," he commented. "And Abu Ammar's picture could be a curse for the officers who are accountable to an authority higher than them."

Campaign against the film

Sherif, who is reputed for making serious films about Arab issues, faced a public attack by one of Egypt's state-owned newspapers, Akhbar Al Yom, where he was labelled as a "traitor who sold himself to dollars" by a certain writer Ibrahim Al Sa'adah for making Naji Al Ali.

To top what Sherif called a "fierce attack" against him and his film, the same newspaper refused to publish ads



Nour El Sherif with extras in the film.

promoting the film. "I could imagine a party newspaper has the right to stop any ads based on its ideology. But this was a national newspaper, and our constitution states that national institutions are owned by the people," he said.

Naji Al Ali was promoted in all other Egyptian papers and on television, but Sherif sent a letter to President Hosni Mubarak asking him to reply to the question: "Is it my right as an Egyptian citizen to advertise for a cultural creation in the national press institutions and can the board of directors ban it because they disagree with my views?"

"Until this moment as I sit with you," Sherif told the local press gathering, "I have not received a reply from the president."

He waited two weeks for a reply, until the last day of the Cairo International Book Fair where his film was screened when Sherif made statements that he still did not receive a response from the president.

The following day, Akhbar Al Yom carried another fierce attack against Sherif. But other newspapers, "including some reactionary ones," had welcomed the film and received positive reviews.

Sherif did, however, respond to Mr. Sa'adah in Egypt's well-known leftist opposition paper, Al Ahali. "I said that if he (Mr. Sa'adah) gave himself the right to attack (late Egyptian President) Gamal Abdul Nasser,

why not give others the right to criticise (late President) Anwar Sadat? Why don't you give a Palestinian artist the right to criticise Sadat? Where is this democracy you talk about?" Sherif wrote.

He could not explain why this campaign against the film and himself was carried out. Whether it was loyalty to Mr. Sadat or extreme hatred for the Palestinians, he added, the attack could not have been more fierce.

However, the public reaction to Naji Al Ali, particularly the visitors of the book fair, was very positive. "But then again, those who went to the book fair were looking for culture."

"The reaction to the film at the book fair was so strong that the response to the commercial screening in Cairo cinemas was completely different," Sherif said. Naji Al Ali opened in a number of movie theatres in Cairo last week.

The Egyptian public, he explained, finds difficulty in understanding the Lebanese and Palestinian dialect. "There is also a portion of our public whose minds have been poisoned by the media and has taken a position against the Palestinian cause," Sherif said, analysing why the cinemas did not receive the expected attendance.

The movie theatres in the middle class areas of Cairo showing Naji Al Ali received positive response "which means that the middle classes in Egypt are still in good shape." The middle class of

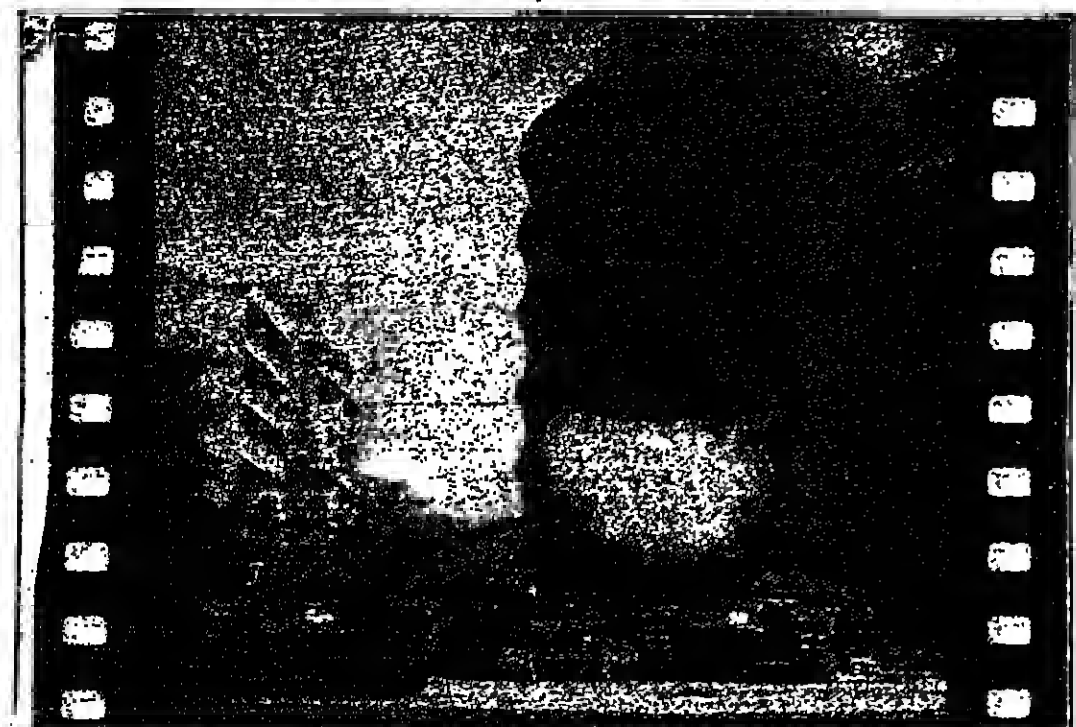
Cairo, explained Sherif, is the skilled, cultured classes of society. But the downtown cinema "where the people like to laugh" did not receive the same success.

During the screening at the Cairo fair an elderly man told Sherif: "Please don't be upset with me, but I don't like the Palestinians and I never understood their cause. But this film made me like the Palestinians and understand their cause."

"So I hugged him... here was a common citizen whose brain was poisoned by the media," Sherif recalled, adding: "For 14 years, the Egyptian media has been destroying his mind to take a negative position regarding the Palestinian cause. But it is rewarding that a film of one hour and 50 minutes can gain him back, at least partially."



Naji Al Ali



A scene from the film Naji Al Ali

U.S. homeschooling increases as alternative to state schools

By Jeanne Sather
Reuter

SEATTLE — Across the country, from farms to city apartments, American parents are turning living rooms into classrooms and keeping their children at home.

Reflecting dwindling confidence in public (state) schools, or simply because parents want their children to get a specific type of education, home teaching has become a viable alternative for

a small but growing number of Americans.

Cindy Cederblom, a farmer's wife in eastern Washington State, said she teaches her six children at home to provide a Christian upbringing and make sure their contacts with other children are "selective."

A Washington state teachers strike last year made Naomi Holmes so angry she decided to pull her two children, Jessie, 12, and Jeremy, aged nine, out of state

schools and teach them at home in suburban Seattle.

Mrs. Holmes, a former Parents and Teachers Association leader who is qualified to teach mathematics, chemistry and physics at secondary-school level, is not alone.

According to Patricia Lines, professor of education at the Catholic University of America who has studied home education for almost a decade, between 248,500 and 353,500 children were being taught at home in 1990-91.

This compared with a 1983 estimate of between 60,000 and 125,000.

Growing awareness by parents that homeschooling is an option may be a bigger factor than simple dissatisfaction with state education," Prof. Lines said.

"I think people have become more comfortable with the idea as they see others doing it and media coverage, with stories that focus on individual families, may be a factor in that."

In Washington State, an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 children are taught at home. A liberal state law, passed in 1985, may be one reason why the state is leading the trend.

The law allows parents to qualify as home teachers by having had at least one year of college, by taking a course at a community college, by finding a certified teacher to supervise the homeschooling, or by gaining the approval of the local school superintendent.

Some states, like Washington, require standardised testing and other require the curriculum to be reviewed and approved.

Details record-keeping is essential in Pennsylvania, while in California many find their best option is to file an affidavit to have their home recognised as a private school.

"The private school option is very popular," said Mark Hegener, who with his wife

Helen has published home education magazine for the past nine years.

In many cases, the academic curriculum is not all that different from what is taught at school, but most home schooled children can cover the basic curriculum in two hours a day or less.

This leaves more time for activities geared to children's special skills or interests and also gives parents a chance to shape their children's values and avoid undesired influ-

ences.

Countering the popular perception that children taught at home are starved of social contact, homeschooling families say they engage in a wide range of activities including field trips, sports and music, many with other home-taught children.

"My kids are recognised as different but in a positive manner," said Mr. Hegener, who says it is the school experience which is "totally foreign to the real world."

Good manners among Europeans

By Pierre Albert Lambert

Meeting people

PARIS — With the approach of European unification, a former prefect, Jacques Gandoin, has collated the rules of courtesy in the twelve member countries, in a 250 page book. His Guide des Bonnes Manières et du Protocole en Europe (Guide to Good Manners and Protocol in Europe), presented with seriousness and humour, is the work of a specialist. A few years ago, he was asked to update the official French protocol, drawn up in 1907, by a certain Georges Clemenceau.

His work will help one to avoid many blunders both in business and in diplomacy, in friendship and in matters of the heart. On reading the work, one becomes aware to what extent each country has its national idiosyncrasies, linked to climate, history and tradition.

The handshake is only British in name. The countless repeated handshakes remain a prerogative of the continent, and particularly of France. As for kissing a lady's hand, that too is, above all, practised in France and alien to the English.

In Luxembourg, when people meet friends, they kiss one another on the cheek three times. In France, it is only twice. So when an inhabitant of Luxembourg meets a French friend, he offers his cheek once more, after the two French kisses, as if he had not had enough.

When two Spanish people meet, they express their delight by embracing so vehemently (l'abrazo) that a foreigner could misinterpret it as Greek or Roman wrestling, but, for all that, two men kissing, as is the custom in

some countries, is still found comical in the land of bull-fighters.

Table manners

The British are the most fussy about punctuality. The writer André Maurois ironically stated that "being five minutes late on the banks of the Thames meant that the guest had either got the date wrong or died."

In Germany, one is recommended to take the flowers one offers one's hostess, out of their wrapping. In France, they would look as if they had just been taken out of their vase.

Still in Germany, it is customary to give a coin to the waiter who takes your coat. In Great Britain, one never tips the barman or barmaid. On the other hand, one can offer them a drink.

The author recommends that you never invite 14 people for dinner. If one of them should drop out, you would

end up with 13 guests and that could be an unpleasant number for some people. In that case, if you cannot get someone from your family to make up the number to 14, it is best to keep quiet and hope that nobody notices, and if someone does notice, common politeness should prevent them from saying anything.

At table, the English keep their hands on their laps. French custom requires one to rest one's wrists on the table. "It appears more seemly," writes J. Gandoin, "and can help some people to resist the temptation to put their hands on a lady neighbour's lap rather than on their own."

Should one carry a spoon to one's mouth broadside on, as the English do, or by the narrow end as recommended in France? This is the subject of many polemics.

In Spain, there is a deeply

rooted tradition to dunk one's bread in one's chocolate or coffee. This is quite shocking in the land of Shakespeare. Because Italians are very superstitious, never pass them the salt at table. They would think you wish them ill.

From one country to another

The custom of taking one's glove off before shaking hands is common in Europe. It goes back to the Middle Ages, Mr. Gandoin tells us. At that time, a glove could conceal a poison-smeared spike.

In Belgium, when one marries one's daughter or one's son, one sends a notification card to Their Majesties, even if one only runs the corner dairy. In Spain, where customs are complex, politeness sometimes takes on a very vehement form. The tendency of certain inhabitants of



What do you need to be a good European?

the country of Cervantes to stand aside at doors sometimes causes real bottlenecks or collisions.

In Germany, Belgium and France, it is not rare to see a motorist get out of his car, on

the road, to relieve himself against a tree. In Britain, he could be taken to court for indecent exposure.

As a general rule, the specialist in good manners advises Europeans to adopt

the particularities of their neighbours, discerningly and without seeking to ape them, and to follow the rule of the English: "When in Rome, do as the Romans." — L'Actualité En France.

How many is too many?

By Maha Addasi

A newly-wed couple who happen to be cousins of mine was afraid that they would never be parents until two months ago when they became parents four times over in one go. They had quadruplets.

Not one, not two, but three girls and one boy in what was a "pleasant" surprise. The physician who delivered the babies decided not to ask for his medical fees because, as he put it while tapping the new father on the back, "I know how much one child will cost you through life. I can't imagine the number multiplied by four!"

Relatives and friends did not have the hospital fees in mind when they toddled into the hospital's nursery to catch a glimpse of the four babies still in incubators. Instead, they were more concerned about the genders of the children.

"It's a good thing she had the boy with the three girls," commented one lady. "I'm sure when the girls turn 18, the parents will marry them off and send the boy to university."

But if you ask me, I would send the boy to vocational school so he can help put the girls through university. Yet I doubt that this idea would go over very well with some people.

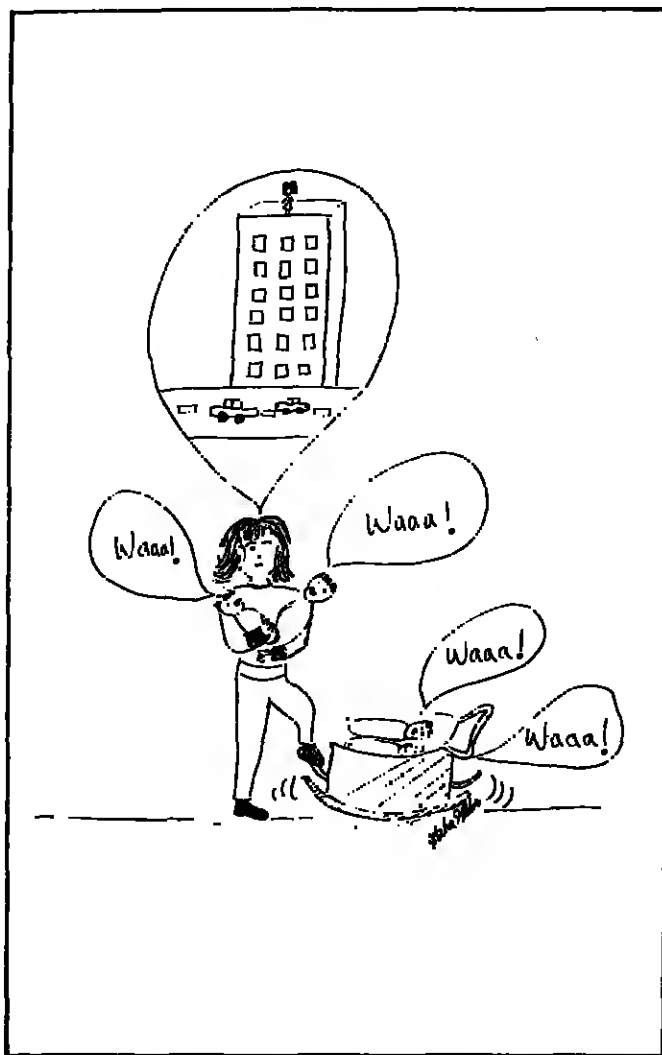
Whatever the future holds for this family, I'm sure this couple will have a "few" sleepless nights until their children's university age. Strangely enough, though, the couple no longer refer to the days when they complained about not having any children. I sense they miss those days.

At the other extreme, there are those who feel that the more children they have the merrier.

One person who has 16 children was asked why he is so obviously against birth control. His answer was that he is not against birth control: he just does not believe in it.

He continued to support his opinion with examples: "I come from a family of eleven brothers. If, for example, I am put in jail," said this driving instructor, "my children will have 10 uncles to take care of them."

"The other day," he continued with another example, "my kids fought with four brothers in school. The number of kids of 'hitting' age at home were not enough to beat the four. So my kids went to their uncles' houses and made up a group of 16 with their cousins. Together they beat up the four children at school," he said matter-of-factly.



To have many children has many repercussions. Parents should prepare themselves to have "no social lives" because having many children, whether good or bad, cannot guarantee the staying power of any maid to help with the children.

FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE THE AMETHYST

Family — Is a variety of quartz.
Colour — From palest lilac to darkest purple.
Geographical sources — Ceylon, CIS, Madagascar, South America and the United States of America.
Legendary background — According to mythology, the amethyst inspires a love of fairness, a sense of duty and a devotion to high ideals. It was, therefore, chosen many hundreds of years ago to be one of the principal ecclesiastical rings and even today is worn by Bishops. Also a stone of royalty in England, the first king to wear the amethyst as a royal emblem was Edward the Confessor in the early 11th century. It is also said to be Saint Valentine's favourite stone. His ring was engraved with a cupid and he popularised the stone for lovers. The actual name, amethyst, comes from the Greek and means "not drunken."

Qualities — Serenity and authority.
Jewellery interpretations — There is still in existence a magnificent amethyst necklace, 26 inches long, made by ancient Egyptian goldsmiths and another, excavated in Greece, is said to have belonged to a young Mycenaean princess 3,400 years ago. Victorian jewellery favoured amethysts, set in gold, often surrounded by pearls and were featured in rings, brooches, necklaces and earrings.

Today — In rough crystal form, the amethyst makes an imposing pendant, set in gold twigs. A ring treated in the same way and high set with the minimum of mount, seems to bring real nature within the limits of fashion.

Notable February birthdays — Charles Dickens, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Frederick Chopin.

Harry Jackson captures the spirit of the west in bronze

By Julia Prodis
The Associated Press

CAMAIRORE, Italy — Sipping cappuccino in an outdoor cafe in this cobbled Mediterranean village, artist Harry Jackson looks oddly out of place.

In weathered cowboy hat and boots, blue suspenders stretched taut over his hefty belly, he looks like he'd be more comfortable swigging a shot of whiskey at a saloon in his hometown of Cody, Wyoming.

But the 67-year-old, white-bearded, bespectacled artist is surprisingly at ease in this provincial town on the southern tip of the Italian Riviera. Caring little for the expectations of the world's art community, Jackson follows "a drum no one else seems to hear."

During an interview, Jackson, who splits his time between Cody and Camaiore, recounted the varied stages of his career, which has taken him from the abstract expressionist movement to realistic bronze sculptures of the old west.

"I feel so comfortable in both places and the quality of comfort I feel, the quality of rightness that I feel, is very homogeneous," he said. "It is a fascination with the life force, the will to follow your destiny."

And that's just what he's been doing since he left his mother's lunchroom at the Chicago stockyards when he was 14 and hitchhiked west.

He landed a job as a hand at the Pitchfork Ranch near Meeteetse, Wyoming, his "spiritual birthplace."

He wanted to be a cowboy — to punch cows, pull calves, rope strays, shoot rattlesnakes. Now he's sculpting them.

Jackson established a studio and foundry in this artists' village some 30 years ago and has been coming back ever since, creating internationally acclaimed bronzes of cowboys and Indians — some of which have graced the White House and the collections of Queen Elizabeth II and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

John Walker, the director emeritus of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, once described Jackson as the most significant western artist since Frederic Remington.

Jackson's larger-than-life statue of Sacajawea, the young Indian woman who guided the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the Rocky Mountains, stands in front of a small chapel on the outskirts of Camaiore. A child peeks from behind her robes.

"I kidded them into thinking she was a Madonna and child," Jackson said. "If art is worth a damn, it will have a universal quality that transcends the subject matter."

Jackson's art is as robust as his character, expressing the same contradictions of the humorous and profound, strength and sensitivity, irreverence and respect. He

swears and spits and bellows, yet just as easily drifts into melancholy and wistfulness.

"Harry can order a glass of water and a toothpick and it can sound like a declaration of war," one of his apprentices once said.

The artist conveys in his works the same dogged spirit of those who settled the west.

It can be seen in the bronze faces of Wyoming cowboy Slim Whit rescuing a calf in a blizzard in Jackson's *Safe And Sound*, and bronc buster Clayton Danks riding famous bucking horse steamboat in *Two Champs*.

A sculpture of John Wayne leading the charge in *The Marshal* personifies the Duke's "I'll kiss you or I'll kill you" look, Jackson said. His newest work, *The Victor*, depicts an Indian warrior in full battle regalia clutching the bloody scalp of an enemy and releasing a primal scream.

To Jackson, *The Victor* conveys the spirit of victory he felt after three days of battle on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands of the South Pacific in World War II.

"I've come back with the full war bonnet of the vanquished. I've killed... I've scalped him and I'm ecstatic," Jackson said in describing the work.

In the late 1940s and early '50s, he was considered one of the most promising abstract expressionists. He and Jackson Pollock had taken New York by storm with their wild abstract creations.

But the swirls and splatters of paint lost their appeal and Jackson did the unforgivable. He turned his back on the avant-garde and embraced western realism — thought by the New York set to be old-fashioned and worthless.

As Jackson embarked on his trip to Europe to study the old masters, Pollock told him he was nuts, a traitor. It was then that he discovered Camaiore, down the coast from the Carrara marble quarry frequented by Michelangelo centuries ago. Jackson decided he wanted to set up shop there.

Undaunted, Jackson went on to shock the art world by reintroducing paint to the traditional bronze patina, illuminating his subjects in living and sometimes surreal colors.

The Beverly Hills Architectural Review Board in 1984 demanded he strip the paint off a monument of John Wayne, commissioned for the Great Western Financial Corporation on Wilshire Boulevard.

Furious — and calling board members "pea brains" — he complied.

To do so is a rarity for Jackson, who has a celebrated reputation for doing it his way or no way.

He refused to bow to the rules and regulations of the Cowboy Artists of America and was "thrown out," and defied the cartel of art dealers, whom he calls "pimps," by refusing to sell his works through them.

On The Wings of Eagles

(To Fadiyah, a woman of courage)

By E. Yaghi

HIGH above Palestinian mountains, a long eagle hung almost motionless in the clear summer sky. Far below, it spotted an ideal hunting area — a long ridge covered with open green vegetation. The eagle glided down, then flew fast and low on one side of the ridge. Suddenly it plummeted earthward. Fifty metres away, on the other side of the crest, a rabbit was feeding, unaware of the forthcoming danger. Even as the frightened hare turned to run, the hunter struck, killing it outright with its talons.

That same day, in a nearby village of Palestine, a 40-year-old widow named Fadiyah, accompanied by her two sons, Kamal, 19 and Bassam, 20, went to visit some relatives. As Fadiyah sat in her cousin's house with her sons and relatives drinking a cup of herb-scented tea, they heard a loud noise in the street. Jamal the younger son dressed in faded blue jeans, the traditional garb of the young, said, "Well, there's the sound we all recognise and are familiar with. That's the military truck. Wonder what those friends are up to now? Something must be happening!"

Fadiyah's face turned ashen. She could feel her heart pound faster but all she could say was, "God help us all and deliver us from the clutches of these evil demons!"

She looked at her children and her relatives. No one moved, no one spoke and the room they were sitting in seemed to moan with a silence filled with dread. Soon, a group of soldiers shouted outside the house and then their wooden truncheons beat on the beige metal door. Fadiyah ordered her sons, "Quick, go into the other room and be quiet. We are only visitors, so it's probably just a routine check for demonstrators."

The boys obeyed and instantly bounded into the adjoining rooms. Fadiyah's cousin went to answer the door. Five Israeli soldiers forced themselves inside the house and one demanded with a snarl, "Where are the boys?"

When they received no reply, they hurried to search the rooms, turning tables, chairs, cupboards and everything in sight upside down. In a few minutes, they came out with Kamal and shoved him towards the door. Fadiyah, horrified, gulped the fear that stuck in her throat and slashed at her heart and half begging, half crying, protested, "Why are you taking my son? He's done nothing. We were here in the house all the time and are but visitors. Please let him go!"

The soldiers, as though deaf, ignored her and proceeded to drag her son away, her son, the tender sapling that she had sacrificed all her being for, that she had carefully raised until he had finally neared manhood and now these beasts were snatching him from her. "No, no, you can't take him away! He's done nothing, he's innocent. Please, in the name of God, have mercy and leave him alone!" the mother shrieked.

But the soldiers knew neither mercy nor God. As she

lamented, she grabbed one of the soldiers and tried to wrest her son from the iron grip he was in. Another soldier rammed the frantic mother on her shoulder with his fist and yelled, "Shut up! Shut up!"

But she clung to the soldier who held her son, crying and screaming, "Leave my son. He's innocent I tell you! He's done nothing. He's guilty of nothing!"

No answer. She looked at her son's lightened eyes so much like the eyes of the hunted hare and fought with all her might to free him. A soldier who was standing a few feet away from her raised his gun and shot her with a plastic bullet. She felt something explode inside her head.

The soldiers paid no attention to the stricken mother who collapsed on the cold cement floor. Blood splattered down on her clothes and clotted in a puddle around her. Not caring if she was dead or alive, they roughly dragged Kamal to their truck and took off towards one of their dreaded slaughter houses.

When Fadiyah awoke, she found herself in a hospital ward, laying on a bed with an IV attached to her arm. Pain tore through her head and groggily she put her free hand up to touch the centre of soreness and found a bandage where her eye had once been. The sight in her single eye was distorted and hazy. She squinted and discovered the misshapen figure of her cousin. Still dead, she asked, "What happened? Why am I here? Where's Kamal, did the soldiers take him? Where's Bassam?"

Her cousin jumped up and came to Fadiyah's bed, put her arms around her and said, "Don't worry! The soldiers took Kamal, but he's done nothing wrong, so I'm sure he'll be back soon. Bassam's all right and staying with us. He insisted on coming with me to the hospital, but I wouldn't let him until things calm down a bit. Perhaps it'll be O.K. if he comes to see you in a few days. He's very concerned."

Fadiyah groaned. The scenes of her son's capture flooded her mind. She remembered his frightened eyes and she remembered the soldier point his gun at him and how her head had exploded. Immediately the truth hit her. She had lost her eye and even as she tried to focus with the eye that was left, she couldn't. She turned to her cousin and faintly saw a blurred face with a voice coming from it.

Who would be brave enough to tell Fadiyah that soon her other eye would have to be removed too because it was destroyed by the plastic bullet? Who could tell her that if her son Kamal ever returned to her, she would never be able to see him or her other son Bassam again? Who could explain to her that she would never see the clear blue Palestinian sky, a red rose, a violet sunset, the emerald waters of the Mediterranean or the wind part on the wings of eagles who flew free not too far away over Palestinian mountains because Israeli soldiers had brutally gouged out the windows of her soul. Can there be peace? Will there ever be peace, and if so, can Fadiyah ever be reimbursed for the loss/torture of her son and for the loss of her eyes?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 30

8:30 The Simpsons

Bart Simpson is knocked down by Mr. Pen's car. Mr. Simpson demands a big sum of money as compensation but Mrs. Simpson tells a different story in court.

8:30 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Eyes Of Witness

A big New York businessman travels to Kenya to bring back his daughter who works there as a volunteer doctor with her boy-friend.

Friday, Jan. 31

8:30 Lenny

Lenny, his wife and the children visit parents.

9:10 Derrick

Doctor Prestel

Violence may take many shapes and forms... but it always breeds violence.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Chancer

Pretenders

Stephen uncovers misconduct in Douglas Motors accounts, and the accountant resigns and Robert Douglas' missing son returns home.

Saturday, Feb. 1

8:30 America's Famous Home Videos

9:00 Encounter

9:30 For The Sake Of The Children

10:00 News in English

10:20 Mini-Series

Switched At Birth

Switched At Birth is a four-hour drama, which is based



Teech Wednesday at 8:30

on the true story of the two Florida girls somehow swapped in a hospital nursery and raised for a decade by the wrong biological parents.

Sunday, Feb. 2

8:30 Empty Nest

Barbara finds a new boy-friend and she introduces him to her father. Later, unfortunately, she finds out that he is going out with another girl.

9:10 Documentary — Equinox

The Winning Streak

What does it take to become an Olympic athlete? This programme sheds light on this issue with special focus on the east German approach.

10:00 News in English

colleague's fault.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Elite

The Elite go to the South Pacific to investigate a reef that threatens to kill an island, then work on stopping a leaking oil tanker and clear a problem between loggers, mill owners and demonstrators who want to preserve nature.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

8:30 Evening Shade

Coach becomes a Western movie star.

9:10 Colour In The Creek

Alec and Robbie recover from being hypnotised by Mr. Eckman and quickly leave the magic place believing what they have experienced.

10:00 News in English

10:20 G.B.H.

Only Here On A Message

Michael Murray is popular, powerful and corrupt. He is the local politician who knows what it is like to be hated and who needs to be loved.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

8:30 Teech

Who will win the elections for president?

9:10 Climate And Man

Child Of The Climate
Humans are in fact children of the climate and climate change produces cultural changes.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Prime Suspect

Although the witness could not identify George Marlour, DCI Tennison follows her instincts, but can't produce evidence and her boss asks her to leave the case.

Catherine Deneuve — the everlasting star

By Pierre Albert Lambert

Catherine Deneuve is the female ideal of the French. A recent survey reveals that she is also the favourite star of the 15 to 20 year-olds. The British and the Americans call her "the French leading lady." A big film showing in the cinema now, and another being shot confirm that Catherine Deneuve has no intention of quitting.

PARIS — If courtesy prevents one from citing Catherine Deneuve's age, it should be remembered that in 1964 she was already a screen success with Jacques Demy's *Parapluies De Cherbourg* (winner of the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm Award) at the Cannes Festival). This charming musical, full of tender humour and emotion, enhanced the star's image as a blonde Madonna.

Catherine, who was born in Paris, is the daughter of actors and she made her film debut at the age of 13 in movies which are forgotten today. It was Roger Vadim, the Pygmalion of female stars, who revealed her to the public in 1962 with *Le Vice et la Vertu*, based on Sade (she played Virtue).

For a long time she gave the appearance of being the pure, smooth young woman,

the classy bourgeoisie. This was a misleading image as the actress had other resources. Roman Polanski was the first to sense this when he offered her the female part in *Repulsion* in 1965. The public then discovered an astonishingly convincing schizophrenic Deneuve, who committed one bloody murder after another.

With *Belle de Jour* (1967) and *Tristana* (1970) in which she plays a young nurse, Luis Buñuel also took her out of the rather insipid kind of role that most film-directors confined her to.

In two other films, at that time, she revealed great psychological possibilities, with her natural ease: Benjamin, by Michel Deville, and *Manon 70* by Jean Aurel.

These were two rôles of unsatisfied love seeking something more.



Catherine Deneuve

Other striking successes among the sixty or so films she has made include: *La Vie De Château* by J.P. Rappeneau (1966), *Les Demoiselles De Rochefort* by Jacques Demy (1967), *Le*

Sauvage also by Rappeneau with Yves Montand, which won her the Golden Bambi for the best actress, in Munich in 1976.

Then there was *Si c'Était à Refaire* (1976) by Claude

Lelouche, where she played the part of a young woman sentenced to 15 years in prison for theft and attempted murder. And *Le Dernier Métro* by the late François Truffaut, in 1980. She played the part of the director of a Paris theatre whose husband had to hide in order to escape persecution by the Nazis. That year the film won her the César for the best actress.

A capable woman

The star has rarely accepted to undress on screen. François Truffaut had the greatest difficulties to get her to accept certain scenes in *La Sirène Du Mississippi* (1970). She confided to *Life* magazine: "I am shy, very shy, contrary to what people may think. Playing nude is torture for me. I had to drink several glasses of vodka before being able to face the filming of certain scenes in *Belle De Jour*."

She may be shy but she is a capable woman, well able to cope with her success. She has created her own production company in order to have a say in the career of her films. An unexpected side of a character who is female right to her fingertips is that in the heat of the

lobby in favour of abortion on demand, she belonged to the "Choisir" movement. However, she has never been seen demonstrating in the streets with a banner in her hand.

Her dynamism reveals astonishing vitality. "She runs on energy," those who work with Catherine claim. She hates routine and likes the unexpected. But she is less sure of herself than she appears to be and is often ridden with doubt. "She is a perfectionist who always fears not doing things properly," they add.

Catherine is divorced from the British photographer David Bailey. She has three children. One of these is by Vadim with whom she fell madly in love at the time of *Le Vice et la Vertu*. The second is Bailey's son and the third, a little girl called Chiara, is the daughter of Marcello Mastroianni.

Catherine is one of the rare French actresses who also works abroad. She has made films in London, in Cincinnati, in Berlin and in Hollywood. For foreign directors, she remains one of the ten safe bets on the international screen.

At present, she is the heroine of *La Reine Blanche*



Catherine Deneuve in *Parapluies De Cherbourg* which won the Golden Palm Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

by Jean-Louis Hubert, a film which is a box-office success. In it, the star can be seen peeling potatoes (very well), just like any housewife.

Today, in the setting of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam, Catherine Deneuve is making *Indochine*, under the direc-

tion of Régis Wargnier. It is a love story between a French naval officer and the daughter of a rubber-tree planter. The action takes place in the 30s when the first signs of anti-colonialism appear. This film is expected to be a big hit — *L'Actualité En France*.

'Lost musical' series highlights forgotten shows

By Matt Wolf

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON — The 1991 theatre year in London saw no finer musical moment than singer Mandy Patinkin melting her way into the title number from "Do I Hear a Waltz?"

It was a standing-room-only revival of a show that died on Broadway in 1965 after 220 performances, the victim of public apathy and infighting among cast and creators.

Ok, it was one of only five Sunday afternoon performances in a 100-seat house at the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden, but a triumph nonetheless for the "Discover the Lost Musicals" series. "It's a feeling of, 'Oh my God: To see it at last'" said Ian Marshall Fisher, the impresario of the series which has now completed three seasons of resuscitating the shows that got away.

These are concert performances, not full productions,

with singers in tuxedos and gowns appearing with scripts in hand. It began in 1990 with Harold Rome's 1954 "Fanny" and continued with Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Allegro" and Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti."

Forgotten works by such Broadway greats as Richard Rodgers, Frank Loesser, Kurt Weill and Stephen Sondheim have been in the lineup.

"We're looking at golden eggs that were laid all those years ago," Marshall Fisher, a garrulous 35-year-old, said of a project which costs roughly \$18,000 per season. "All we ever get in London or New York is the usual revival of whatever the big show was, or the latest multi-million dollar hyped extravaganza," he said.

"My idea was quite firm from the beginning, to include material by the very finest of writers that we just didn't know."

By his autumn 1991 season, word was out. There were turnaway crowds for all three shows — Loesser's "Greenwillow," Rodgers and Sondheim's "Do I Hear a Waltz?" and Weill and Alan Jay Lerner's "Love Life."

The performers are West End professionals, some of whom were appearing in current flops — "The Hunting of the Snark," for example — even as they were reviving old failures on their one day off.

The results have been revelatory.

In "Do I Hear a Waltz?" Librettist Arthur Laurents adapted his play, "The Time of the Cuckoo," into a sweet and touching tale of holiday romance between an unmarried American woman and a dashing Venetian.

Seen anew 25 years later, the score shines with such songs as "Moon in My Window" and "This Week Americans."

The series' next selection,

"Love Life," took a stark glance at modern marriage, examining 150 years in the lives of a couple who learn — to quote the chorus — that "reality is really misery."

"It's like airing a live exhibit," Marshall Fisher said of the show, a 1948 flop that lasted 252 performances. "Where else would you see this show complete, at such a high level of performance?"

Mario Mercado, director of programmes for the Kurt Weill Foundation controls the rights to the German composer's work, called the "Lost Musicals" series "an absolutely great and essential enterprise."

"These are fragile pieces, so if the work is mistreated or poorly performed, it can cause more harm than good," he said by telephone from New York.

The series represents a genuine achievement for Marshall Fisher, who came to his interest in musicals

through a childhood in London spent at the movies.

"For some reason, I picked up very quickly that old films are fun, and often old films that are fun are musicals," he said.

West End musicals followed, but Marshall Fisher is no fan of the genre now. "Musicals once had important scores; important books," he said. "What producers now give the audience is spectacle, the equivalent of a Cecil B. DeMille film."

Still, he realises what he has created and has begun to think in terms of recordings, if other like-minded folk don't get there first. "Love Life," for instance, is due to be recorded by EMI this year, with Thomas Hampson and Judy Kaye as the leads.

Marshall Fisher hopes to find a larger venue beyond the theatre museum's narrow 100-seat auditorium with its awkward sightlines. He is auditioning alternative sites for his upcoming season,

which will begin May 3 and run through October.

Although the selection has yet to be finalised, it will likely include Moss Hart's "Jubilee," Rodgers and Hart's "By Jupiter," Dorothy Fields and Arthur Schwartz's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and a revival of "Do I Hear a Waltz?"

Next November, the "Lost Musicals" series makes its American debut, with concert performances at the Smithsonian in Washington of "Allegro" and "Do I Hear a Waltz?"

Does Marshall Fisher spend his time scanning the list of current flops, spying tomorrow's "Lost Musicals" among today's discards?

No way, he says, harking at the suggestion that he mount this Broadway season notorious goner, "Nick and Nora," which closed Dec. 15. "Most of those New York musicals I haven't seen," he deadpans. "I'm not very keen on contemporary work."

Jean-Jacques Annaud's The Lover gets mixed reviews

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Decaying colonial Saigon is the backdrop for an illicit, real-life love affair recounted in *The Lover*, the most ambitious film yet made on location in Vietnam.

Based on Marguerite Duras' best-selling account of her steamy adolescent affair with a wealthy Chinese man in Saigon, the film is performed in English and directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud. The director's box-office hits include *In The Name of The Rose* and *The Bear*.

Two more French films set in colonial Indochina — *Siem Bien Phu* by Pierre Schoendoerffer, and *Regis Wargnier's Indochine* — are scheduled to open later this winter.

The newspaper *Liberation* filled three pages with details about *The Lover*, a 130 million franc (\$24 million) production which topped *Cyrano De Bergerac* as the costliest French film.

"Stilted and indecisive, the film... is a little love story told with oversized images," wrote *Liberation* staffer Gerard Lefort. "Annaud has simply filmed a series of commercials where everything is beautiful."

Indeed, the details are sheer perfection. The young girl's worn-out rhinestone high heels stand in contrast to her lover's impeccable white linen suit and his sleek, black limousine. Her sloppily applied red lipstick gives away her youth and inexperience.

Perspiring bodies, muddy streets teeming with life, pounding monsoon rains, tranquil rice paddies along the brown Mekong River — such images linger after the story is forgotten.

The simply story is about sexual passion between a beautiful, virginal 15-year-old, the daughter of a poor French school teacher, played by British newcomer Jane March, and an idle Chinese aristocrat, played by Tony Leung.

He proclaims his love while she wants only his caresses and his money. The relationship ends when he agrees

to an arranged marriage with a Chinese woman.

The explicit love scenes are filmed in a bedroom illuminated only by sunlight filtered through slatted shutters that open onto the bustling Chinese quarter of old Saigon.

"My job was filming the emotion, the incredible thrill of love," Annaud said. "What's not simulated is the sensation of pleasure, of bliss."

Annaud auditioned more than 1,000 teenagers before he saw March, 17, in a British magazine and invited her to Paris.

"Without her, we couldn't have made the picture," he said. "She has the talent of a tiger. Her fears, her emotions, she has everything, including the sense of silence that characterise all great performers."

The Lover in book form has sold more than 22 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 43 languages since its publication in 1984.

Veteran producer-director Claude Berri bought the film rights for an undisclosed sum and signed on Annaud as director.

Annaud initially said Duras, the 76-year-old author, was "delicious to work with." But their relationship went sour. He accused her of trying to take control, while she, in a fury, wrote her own screen play based on the novel and published it as *The Lover From Northern China*.

From then on it was war. "She saw herself as a living god before whom we were supposed to prostrate ourselves, mouths agape. That's not my style, and I must have seriously annoyed her telling no more often than yes," Annaud said in an interview.

So far, Duras has not commented publicly on the movie.

Exporting laughter

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — British comedy actor Derek Nimmo smiles when he says: "I'm actually in the export business. Our touring theatre troupes perform comedies in nearly 30 countries. In these stressful days, I'm happy to say, an evening of laughter can become a valuable thing for people everywhere."

Nimmo is a familiar face on British screens, large and small. A veteran of 30 years in London's theatre district, the West End, he's also an author and a popular after-dinner speaker. For the last 15 years, he's also been the London manager of Intercontinental Entertainment Ltd., a Hong Kong-based mobile theatre troupe. The British Airways Dinner Theatre, as it is formally known, has the global airline as its sponsor. And with BA in an expansionist mood these days, things are looking brighter than ever for Nimmo's nimble troupers.

He chooses the casts, organises rehearsals and then tries to attend the opening of as many shows as he can. To audiences around the world, he has sent out such great wits as the dry-humoured star of the Avengers TV series, Patrick MacNee. Nimmo's mirthful casts come in all sizes, from the heavyweight Peggy Mount to sly, slim John Inman. Since the tours are almost like a

working holiday for many actors, Nimmo says he's always got a lot of talent from which to choose.

Bubbly actress Judy Buxton recalls a strange experience for her company during a lull in the Gulf war: "We could see the huge American hospital ship, the Comfort, while we were having a floating picnic in an exotic dhow right in the Gulf," she says. "We'd played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, then Hong Kong before moving to the Gulf area. In time of war, there's always great interest in performers who can help relieve the tensions."

Nimmo notes that one of the great ironies for him is that the actors he sends abroad often live a lot better on the road than he does. "I'm in a grotty hotel in Newcastle, for instance, and they're rollicking around in some five star de luxe hostelry in Singapore. I'm trying to survive some dreadful provincial food, while they're drinking champagne and nibbling gourmet grub," he says with mock pain.

Most of the time the shows are put on in five star hotels. "Not always," Nimmo hastens to add, trying to be diplomatic about a one-night stand at an oasis near Abu Dhabi where they played. "But it can be top-flight hotels in Jakarta or Penang. Since last year, we've been going to the new hotel in Peking." There are often sur-

prises, like the 600-room modern hotel in Abuja, the new capital of Nigeria. "The hotel is so modern, but it's surrounded by mud huts," the actor-manager explains. "And the doorman just might have a bow and arrow over his shoulder."

If Nimmo and his troupers have a bit of fun at the contrasts of their venues, they're anything but old colonialists in attitude. "If people can laugh together, they'll respect and come to understand each other all the easier," he says. Still, he can't help but recall with amusement how a TV interviewer in Lagos insisted on asking him about satanic sex, the tendency of married men to have affairs, and other matters of which he professed total ignorance.

Since it is in the very nature of touring actors to have one crisis after the other, he can regale an audience with details of mishaps, like the time when a request for a simple telephone kiosk to go on stage yielded one that was an unmanageable 60 feet tall.

The company is managed by Hong Kong barrister Gilbert Rodway, a Hong Kong Q.C. According to Nimmo, "choice of material is terribly important, and we are always sensitive to local traditions. You would not want to stage Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell, no matter how big a hit it was in London, in any country where drinking is frowned

upon. And Papua New Guinea, is hardly right for *There's A Girl In My Soup*. Our conversation backstage at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, was interrupted by a visit from John Inman who starred in the Mother Goose pantomime this Christmas."

Derek sent me to the island of Guam and then to Bergen, Norway," Inman chimed in. "How is that for variety?"

Of all the productions he's shipped overseas, Nimmo says, *Run For Your Wife* must be "the most popular." It's about a taxi driver who has one wife in North London and another in South London. The original idea behind the dinner theatre was to provide entertainment for the expatriate colony or Britons on holiday in foreign climes. Such is the interest in British theatre, however, that 90 per cent of audiences in Cairo can be made up of locals, Nimmo reports. And in Singapore there is so much fervour for learning English that students pack every performance. When *Busy Body* played recently in Peking, there was a special performance for Chinese students of English, as well.

Nimmo believes strongly in the power of performances to influence how people think. "I believe that TV caused the collapse of communism," he declares. Just watch for the effects of satellite TV in Hong Kong, he adds. "Hollywood films may have long stoked a



Derek Nimmo

fantasy interest in the affluent California life, but it was day-to-day realism in TV news reports from Budapest and Berlin that fuelled all those anti-Communist uprisings."

Casts for the mobile dinner theatre have included top names like David Jason, Leslie Phillips, Moira Lister, Patrick Cargill, Frank Thornton, Sheila Hancock and that seemingly indestructible veteran Dora Bryan. Among Nimmo's own credits are stage hits with *Charlie Girl*, *Why Not Stay For Breakfast?* and *Shut Your Eyes And Think Of England*. His TV hits include *Oh Brother*, *The World Of Wooster*, *Life Begins At Forty* and *Third Time*

Lucky.

Derek Nimmo's films include *Casino Royale*, *The Amorous Prawn*, *Joey Boy*, *Talent For Loving*, and *One Of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing*. He's written such bestsellers as *Shaken And Stirred*, *Not In Front Of The Servants*, and *Up Mount Everest Without A Paddle*.

He lives in Kensington, London, and Northamptonshire, and has three children. As you may have gathered, he loves to travel, especially when it's connected with his other great passion, making audiences of all shapes, sizes and ethnic backgrounds laugh — *World News Link*.

A facelift without tears

By Heidi Muman

SINGAPORE — These days, a Westerner who takes up acupuncture is no longer such a rarity. In recent years, more and more practitioners, dissatisfied with modern medicine, have beaten a path to the east to learn the art of curing with needles.

But Anita Knechter has gone one step further. This European-born former pharmacist has not only studied qualified in general acupuncture techniques, she has set herself up in practice to provide an unusual but much sought-after treatment — cosmetic acupuncture. At her Singapore clinic, Ms. Knechter offers the ultimate in cosmetic treatment, a facelift without surgery. For her patients, there is no operating theatre, no anaesthetic, no side effects and no fears of slips of the scalpel.

Nor, perhaps surprisingly, do Ms. Knechter's clients resemble pincushions during treatment. "Not all the relevant points are in the face," explained Knechter. "Some are on the neck or chest. The points on the foot and up to the knee, on the hand and up to the elbow are the most commonly used ones for all purposes, not just cosmetic."

In fact, Chinese physicians practicing in former times were never allowed to treat female patients face to face. They had to prescribe and carry out treatment through a curtain. The woman who sought their professional skills were invariably high-ranking and wealthy, and modestly extended hand an arm or leg for the doctor's manipulations. If cosmetic acupuncture was being administered, he would almost certainly never see the face he had been commissioned to keep beautiful.

Acupuncture facelifts work by inserting needles in selected ear and body-points to stimulate the muscles of the head, face and neck and increase the blood flow in those areas. "The resulting warmth converts into a mi-

oute electrical charges. This charge feeds the muscles, nerves and lymph channels," said Mr. Knechter.

The treatment is slower than a surgical facelift. Ms. Knechter's patients come twice-weekly for a session which involves needles being placed in the relevant points, as well as lessons in self-massage and acupressure after-care. After treatment, says Ms. Knechter, "the face will radiate with health."

"This is for two reasons," she said. "One, the clogged meridians (points in the human body where energy is concentrated) in the face have been cleared. This brings energy to the oerves, skin and underlying tissue, which firms up and fills in to erase wrinkles. Two, many of the body's meridians start and end in the face. By stimulating these, general health is improved. Nudging sinus, kidney, lung, heart and digestive complaints are alleviated as a side-effect of cosmetic acupuncture. Many patients are freed of headaches they had imagined were normal adjuncts of increasing age."

Ms. Knechter's interest in acupuncture was sparked by a visit from a friend to her home in Singapore. For years, he had been suffering from a suppurating birthmark on the sole of his foot. But with acupuncture, his lifelong affliction cleared up immediately. Ms. Knechter, a trained pharmacist, decided to find out more about a technique she had certainly heard about, but always considered to be a crank therapy, something to do with spells and astrology.

As she investigated, she learned that Chinese medical theory was based on a concept of health and sickness, prevention and healing that was totally different from the one she had learned during her own training. Western medicine considers most illness to be caused by outside influences such as germs, viruses and bacteria. Chinese physicians maintain that

energy present in the human body has to be perfectly balanced for good health to prevail. Energy flows in an intricate system of channels throughout the body, they say. If one channel becomes blocked, lax or over-active, illness will result.

Although invisible, the body's energy streams can be measured electronically, says Ms. Knechter, who did her basic acupuncture training under a stern Chinese teacher in Singapore. She recalls how she not only had to re-learn her medical theories, she also had to re-think some of her attitudes. Western education prompts students to ask the question why. But Ms. Knechter remembers how her teacher, a certain Mr. T.T. Ang, repeatedly told her: "You just have to accept what I say, not question me."

For three years, Ms. Knechter studied how to locate the energy-carrying meridians in the human body, as well as the Latin names and numbers of the thousands of acupuncture points. She and the other students were instructed to mark the points to show they had absorbed the information. Before they were unleashed on patients, they had to practice using the needles on each other.

Then came the time to go to Peking to do her practical work. Here, in one of the city's hospitals, Ms. Knechter was assigned as a houseman, doing an eight-hour shift, side by side with junior Chinese practitioners. English is the language universally used in working with the system of meridian numbers. For Ms. Knechter, it was often the only way she had of communicating with her Chinese-speaking colleagues.

She found her Peking experience to be an eye-opener. By Western standards, the hospital was very poorly equipped. But the patients were cheerful. They turned up in batches of 10 and patiently waited their turn. None showed the slightest objection, nor any great sur-

prise at being treated by a foreigner, she says. Each carried a card with a diagnosis and the points needing treatment written on it — in Chinese characters. If Ms. Knechter wanted to question a patient further, she had to use an interpreter. She marked the points on the patient's body, the supervisor checked for accuracy, then the needles were gently inserted.

A qualified acupuncturist since 1987, Ms. Knechter now practices in Singapore, deftly balancing the demands of her work and her family. "My husband travels a lot professionally. My son is quite used to having Mom at work for certain hours of the day," she said. Besides cosmetic acupuncture, Ms. Knechter uses her needles to treat a whole gamut of illnesses, aches and pains. "More and more doctors are beginning to understand the value of alternative medicine," she said. "Some send me patients with sports injuries; acupuncture replaces the heavy doses of painkillers and their side-effects."

One of Knechter's diagnostic instruments is a laser sensor which is often used on a patient's ears. This technique, christened "auriculotherapy" — ear therapy — by its French inventor, is based on the notion that each organ of the human body is reflected in the shell of the ear. As the sensor head is moved along the outline of the patient's ear, the instrument emits a beep if irregularities are detected.

At that point, the therapist determines which points in the body need the needle, whether it should be cold or warmed by a smoldering pinch of herbs. "One-way needles" have replaced the silver and gold instruments designed in medieval times. The modern ones are sold in plastic packs and discarded after use.

Pain responds well to acupuncture: Rheumatism,



Trained as a pharmacist, acupuncturist Anita Knechter uses her needles to do cosmetic facelifts.

sciatica, hump, migraines as well as minor injuries such as sprains. So do sinus conditions and hayfever. Stroke victims have been known to improve dramatically if treatment is started soon after the attack. Ms. Knechter has heard of surgical operations being performed in China, using acupuncture as the only anaesthetic — for example in caesarian births, amputations, and dental surgery. But she has never witnessed one.

She remains guarded in her view of the extent to which acupuncture can be used to replace modern techniques altogether. "Chinese methods of keeping records and conducting experiments are quite different from ours," she said. "They published successes without mentioning failures. As for claims that acupuncture can cure cancer... I don't believe that."

Ms. Knechter and her hus-

band do not plan to remain in Singapore forever. They would like to settle in Spain, probably on the Balearic island of Mallorca. There, Anita Knechter has visions of setting up a health and beauty farm, taking advantage of the growing interest in natural and alternative healing methods now being shown in Europe.

But she has no pretensions, she says, of trying to take the place of a regular physician.

"I am not a doctor. I'm a health therapist," she said. "I'm qualified to study the patient's condition, diagnose the illness and stimulate his body to promote self-healing. Acupuncture or the related practice of acupressure are not cures. They facilitate the body's natural impulse towards balance. When internal energy flows easily and well, the body systems operate in harmony. This is health." — World News Link.

High-dose Vitamin A saves Third World children's lives

LONDON (AP) — A single megadose of Vitamin A reduced the death rate among malnourished children in Nepal by 26 per cent, indicating that a low-cost programme could save millions of lives around the world, researchers report.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 190 million preschool-age children worldwide are at risk of Vitamin A deficiency, which can lead to blindness, a weakened immune system or even death.

Dr. Nile Daulaire, the chief investigator, said the total cost of treating each child against the deficiency was 20 cents — including the expense of the Vitamin, staff and management time.

"There has ever been a child survival intervention anywhere near this level of cost effectiveness," he said.

Dr. Daulaire is director of the International Centre for

the Prevention and Treatment of Major Childhood Diseases, a private, non-profit organisation in Hanover, New Hampshire.

The study, published in the Jan. 25 issue of the British Medical Journal, confirms earlier research and supports advocates of global Vitamin A programmes.

Dr. Daulaire said Vitamin A deficiency is almost nonexistent in industrialised countries, where "giving kids a whole lot more is potentially toxic." Dark green leafy vegetables, yellow vegetables, fruit, egg yolks, whole milk, and glandular meats such as liver, are rich in Vitamin A.

Many poor countries have balked at diverting scarce health resources to Vitamin A programmes without evidence it saves lives.

"It now becomes a very different ball game. By using Vitamin A as part of child

survival programmes, you get a very big bang in terms of child survival and an impact on blindness, too," Dr. Alfred Sommer, dean of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, said in a telephone interview.

Investigators compared five-month survival rates among 3,786 children who got Vitamin A to 3,411 who did not. All were under five and from Jumla, a remote region in north west Nepal plagued by high rates of Vitamin A-induced blindness.

The programme aimed at getting the Vitamin to all children to stem rampant childhood eye problems. But five months after it started, half the child population had not yet gotten the supplement. This enabled scientists to see whether Vitamin A had benefits other than preventing blindness.

They found that the death

rate among children who got Vitamin A was 26 per cent lower. The greatest effect was noted among children aged from 6 to 11 months, with mortality declining by 49 per cent.

Children treated with Vitamin A had dramatically lower rates of fatal diarrhoea. Death due to measles or pneumonia decreased.

Children between the ages of 12 months to 59 months were given 200,000 international units of Vitamin A in the Nepal study. Infants 6 to 11 months were given 100,000 IU, and babies younger than 6 months 50,000 IU.

A previous study in Madurai, India, showed doses of Vitamin A, equivalent to the amount in a healthy diet, reduced childhood mortality by 50 per cent. This study was published in the Oct. 4, 1990 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Switzerland 'needle park' closure threatens AIDS programme

By Mitya New
Reuter

ZURICH — AIDS prevention faces a big setback in Switzerland when Zurich's notorious "needle park" is closed this year, dispersing drug addicts onto the city streets, social workers say.

Switzerland has one of the highest per capita rates of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in Europe.

About 30 per cent of cases are in Zurich, where "needle park" or Platzspitz attracts thousands of drug addicts and pushers.

For the last three years Zurich City Council has run a controversial project in the park, tolerating the open selling and using of drugs in Switzerland's largest, richest city.

The council ordered the park's closure last October, saying it was too great a threat to law and order and attracted drug users and dealers from abroad.

Critics say closing Platzspitz — the park is due to be shut soon, although no definite date has been announced — will threaten a successful AIDS prevention programme and spread the disease throughout the city.

"Once the park is closed the assistance we provide

there to drug users to protect them against AIDS will become very much more difficult," said Peter Grob, who leads a group helping addicts in Platzspitz. His voice was almost drowned by the cries of the pushers.

As Mr. Grob spoke a group of addicts crowded around a small hot behind him and in turn dropped used syringes through a window into a barrel before receiving new ones.

Nearly a man tied his dog to a fence, knelt in front of the wing mirror of a parked car and felt for a vein in his neck in which to inject a full syringe which he had just prepared.

The park, a narrow, wooded peninsula at the confluence of Zurich's Limmat and Sihl Rivers, lures thousands of users and dealers daily, many from abroad.

Mr. Grob's team of social workers and medical students provides sterile syringes, swabs and condoms. It also offers free AIDS tests and consultation.

The team, which is financed by the city council, distributes around 8,000 syringes a day to 2,500 people.

The left-wing city council began the Platzspitz project more than three years ago in

an effort to concentrate the drug scene in one area and step up AIDS prevention measures. It says the battle against the spread of the disease will continue to be a priority.

But critics doubt the council's plans to distribute sterile syringes at various aid centres around Zurich, from dispensers on city streets and through pharmacists will match the facilities provided by Mr. Grob's team.

"Anyone who is desperate for a fix and has not got a sterile syringe immediately available will simply get hold of a used one," said Father Guido Schwitler, a Roman Catholic priest who provides shelter to drug addicts suffering from AIDS and consoles those in the final stages of the disease.

"The AIDS prevention service that was provided on Platzspitz was ideal because it centralised sterile needles and drug consumption," he said.

"We have stocked up on sterile syringes so that once Platzspitz is closed we will be able to hand them out if necessary."

Social workers say closure of the park will simply disperse the drug scene and make it harder to give help.

"With Platzspitz the drug scene was stable, while now it

will move around unpredictably," said Mr. Schwitler. Zurich police say they will not allow open drug scenes to develop elsewhere in the city once the park is closed.

Switzerland has managed to stabilise the number of new AIDS carriers at around 1,700 a year from a high of over 3,000 in 1986.

According to the latest official figures, by the middle of November some 13,000 people were reported to be carrying the AIDS virus. About half caught the virus from infected needles.

Unofficial estimates put the total number of AIDS carriers in Switzerland, including unreported cases, at around 25,000.

Zurich also plans to distribute Methadone to more drug addicts, to wean them off hard drugs and encourage them not to "shoot up" with used syringes. About 2,000 addicts now use the city's Methadone programme.

Bruno, who comes to Platzspitz every afternoon to inject his cocaine, says he doesn't know what he'll do if he can't find a sterile syringe once Platzspitz is closed. "I need a fix every day," he said. "When they close Platzspitz I'll have to find drugs and syringes wherever I can."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

STANDARDIZED
By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
1 Egypt, Suez canal
2 World by Shakespeare
3 Help in crime
4 Sunday
5 Metal fastener
6 3-number lottery
7 20-foot dromedary
8 Performance by a trained group
9 24 Jao
10 25 of 50
11 Move quickly
12 The King
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Moscow conference breaks into working groups

(Continued from page 1)

"Palestinians from the diaspora" on this committee, since it directly concerns those who lost their homes when Israel became a state.

Mr. Musa said he was depending on Russia and the United States to persuade Israel to accept Palestinians from outside the occupied territories. "They have enough credibility among us that what they support will be carried out," Mr. Musa said.

The Israelis say they did not know until two nights ago that a separate committee on refugees would be set up for the Moscow talks. Mr. Baker announced it at Tuesday's opening session, in what was seen as an attempt to lure the Palestinians into the talks.

Mr. Haim said he stayed up late on Tuesday night to write a speech, but at the committee

meeting, "after everyone else had spoken I told them I was scrapping my speech because the atmosphere is excellent, so informal, so businesslike."

"It really surprised me. It was like I would sit down with friends to solve a problem. A Jordanian came up to me, shook my hand and introduced himself. Then came the Omani delegate who remarked that we were both in the same academic field, of political research."

Loan guarantees

Asked if Israel could expect to receive a \$10 billion loan guarantee to help settle an expected flood of immigrants from the former Soviet Union if it did not freeze new Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land, Mr. Baker said:

"We are having some quiet consultations about this issue and we will continue to have these consultations."

An Arab diplomat said the economic development working group would meet in Brussels on May 11-12.

The Arab diplomat said the Brussels gathering would be called an informal seminar "to make sure everybody can attend."

The idea of calling the water resources group meeting a seminar was raised but diplomats said it was dropped because of opposition from Jordan and Israel.

A Jordanian official said: "Why should the Palestinians be interested in coming to a seminar? This is not a university campus."

Experts from more than 20 countries discussed the working groups on the final day of the Moscow conference.

By Anna Quindlen

I'm going to go out on a limb here and predict that the next spokeswoman for No Excuses jeans will be a woman named Jennifer Flowers, described as a television reporter turned nightclub singer.

How do you go from being a television reporter to being a nightclub singer? And whose idea was it to spell Jennifer with a G?

Well, never mind. That's frivolous and this is serious. It's a presidential election year, and so naturally the nation is learning about sex and taxes. This week we're on the adultery watch with Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, a big guy with a grin and a small cloud of rumours about his one-time private life that has pretty much followed him everywhere since he declared.

Ms. Flowers says they had a 12-year just-one-of-those-things, which didn't stop her from taping a valedictory call from Mr. Clinton in which, it is alleged, he told her to deny their involvement. (Dating tips for guys: watch those women who have recording devices attached to their phones). Ms. Flowers told her story to The Star, which is that publication you can find right next to the gun and the little things that keep your glasses from hurting you nose at the supermarket checkout

The adultery watch

counter. You buy The Star by hiding it beneath your box of Total, pretending it fell onto the conveyor belt. The Star paid Ms. Flowers for her story. The Governor says it's not true.

Let's pretend for a moment that we're discussing real life here instead of politics. Sadly enough, these things happen. They may simply happen more frequently to politicians. Just as we've come to accept that most politicians of a certain age likely smoked pot at some time in their past, so we've come to accept that, given the combination of megalomania and charisma needed to run for office, some candidates may at one time have found ego gratification with actresses/models or television reporter/nightclub singers, the kind of women who, when they go public, tend to have flattering 8-by-10 glossies readily available.

This matters to different people in different degrees, from those who think it's unforgivable to those who think it's inevitable. Call it character. Call it a way of seeing women. Call it the sleaze factor. You put together "forsaking all others," "I will never lie to you," and "here's my room key" and you've got a credibility gap in real life and in politics, too.

In the last 30 years, we have moved from wondering whether it happens to wondering whether it matters. Now we care about how it is handled, about getting out of a jam with dignity. Many will argue that Gary Hart was toppled not by his indiscretions but by the fact that he defied reporters to discover him in flagrante and then gave them delicto to spare (Others suggested that any man engaging simultaneously in a presidential race and a dalliance

was too dumb to ever grapple with the deficit).

Governor Clinton tried to head this issue off at the pass by meeting with the press some months ago to say that his marriage wasn't perfect but he and his wife had worked hard to stay together and that was that. Hillary Clinton, who is smart and beautiful, was with him when he did this. That matters. Some women will tell you that what turned them against Mr. Hart was the sorry spectacle of his wife defending a man who had publicly humiliated her.

You could argue that you should never confuse real life and politics or you will begin to believe things that Ronald Reagan says. But the fact is that the man who would be president tries to make himself something between a buddy and a boss when he is

running, and if we judge him the way we would either — or the way we might a husband — it is understandable. The personal has become as important as the positions. If this were not so, infidelity would be a non-issue and Paul Tsongas would be the Democratic front-runner.

If this were real life, Dear Abby would tell you that if you loved Bill Clinton enough, you should accept his story and put all this out of your mind. And that's probably good political advice, too. I'm not sure anyone loves Mr. Clinton that much yet. The Democrats I talk to have a clear idea of who they want for President: A.B.B. Anyone but, Mr. Bush. If enough people feel that Bill Clinton is necessary to his party, his alleged indiscretions will become secondary to his absolute indispensability — The Independent.

Bush starts campaign

(Continued from page 1)

as a candidate with no domestic agenda.

Last year's State of the Union address focused mainly on foreign policy and mentioned crime and transportation as the major items on his domestic agenda. This year's address, which comes at a time when the effects of a hard-hitting economic recession are being felt across the country, outlined a two-part plan by the president. The short-term plan, to be implemented by the administration without assistance from Congress, includes a 90 day moratorium on new federal regulations that could hinder growth, more flexible government regulation on bank loans, speeding up pro-growth expenditures, changing the federal tax withholding tables, and continuing to support monetary policy that keeps interest rates and inflation down. Elements of the long-term plan include breaking down the walls that stop world trade, the elimination of traffic and subsidies which, according to the president, "damage America's farmers and workers." The president's plan also includes the "American 2000" education plan (which gives more choice to parents and more flexibility to teachers); health care reform (which includes reforming the health insurance market), and keeping the federal deficit under control.

Initial reactions to the speech varied with some commentators saying it was a comprehensive, solid and prudent speech and others saying it was neither decisive nor visionary and that it lacked boldness.

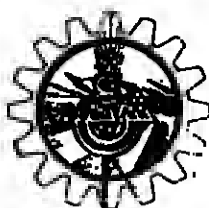
Although the president's speech was one of challenge to Congress, Mr. Bush did not appear confrontational towards Congress in a harsh, partisan manner. He gave in to Congress on the issue of extending federal unemployment benefits — for which he provided \$4.4 billion in the budget. But he also challenged lawmakers to pass his budget plan by March 20.

Congressional Democrats blasted the president, saying he offered a package of retreat economic proposals that are designed to win him political points rather than bring relief to the country. Democratic challengers said he offered too

little, too late. Republican challenger Pat Buchanan charged that the president was running against himself.

The Democratic response, delivered by House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Washington) following Bush's speech, had nothing to say on the Middle East. The only reference made by Mr. Foley to

anything remotely connected to foreign policy was that the U.S. cannot be strong abroad if it is weak at home. Mr. Foley said the standard of living in the U.S. is the most important indicator of the state of the union. "For too long we were told to wait... the truth became all too painful. The economy is in decline..." he said. "It is time to turn our attention to our own land and to our own people," Mr. Foley concluded.



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665116 or 93-377121-Site

2. Mr. M. Hodgins,
Jacobs International Inc.,
Merrion House,
Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, - Ireland

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Auriol wins Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R)—Frenchman Didier Auriol, driving a Lancia, scored his second victory in the Monte Carlo Rally Wednesday, the first and most famous leg of the World Championship.

Auriol, who shot to fame by winning the race in 1990, took advantage of the power of his Lancia HF Integral to upstage last year's winner and former World Champion Carlos Sainz of Spain, in a Toyota.

Auriol, who trailed his rival by three seconds before the rally's night stage Tuesday, won three of the last seven timed sections to win by two minutes and five seconds.

Reigning world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland, also in a private Lancia, was third, a further 52 seconds behind.

The race's nightly climax was almost a repetition of Auriol's victory in 1990, when he set off on the last stage with a four-second lead over Sainz, his former team mate with Ford in 1987 and 1988.

Sainz managed to win only the first special timed stage of the night in the snow-covered Turini

Pass before Auriol overtook him. The Frenchman then launched his decisive move on day roads to score an expected victory.

"Auriol was far too fast. It was just impossible to keep up with him," Sainz said.

Despite constant problems to his Ford Cosworth's turbo engine, only France's Francois Delecour managed to match Auriol's pace in the last stage, winning three specials.

Delecour, who lost the rally when he was forced to give up in the very last timed section last year, finished fourth, four minutes and 42 seconds behind his compatriot.

"I stood no chance for overall victory but I wanted to prove what I could have done without the turbo problems," he said. Auriol's victory and Kankkunen's third place gave Lancia a perfect start in the World Championship.

Despite the official withdrawal of the Italian car-maker from the Rally World Championship, their privately entered cars have dominated the race throughout. The latest Delta Integrale, with

a new torque and improved suspension, should let Lancia snatch a sixth consecutive title in the World Constructors' Championship, Auriol said.

"To win with a brand new car is a real thrill. It is a great car, much smoother and easier to drive," he said.

The Frenchman could have won by an even wider margin had he not made a wrong choice of tyres in Sunday's last timed stage, allowing Sainz to remain in contention.

Toyota, Lancia's main rivals again this season, may have problems catching up with the Italian cars. Sainz complained about his car's lack of power and poor road-holding.

The Japanese car-maker took an early lead in the rally thanks to Germany's Armin Schwarz. But the pacesetter was forced to give up after crashing into a wall Monday.

Ford, which had high hopes this season after hiring Delecour and former world champion Massimo Biasion of Italy, was also disappointing.

"It's a Third World car. It's

impossible to drive," said Biasion, who ended eighth, almost 17 minutes behind Auriol.

Drivers Wednesday called for a classic stage on the Turini Pass to be scrapped from the Monte Carlo Rally because of bad behaviour by spectators which threatened their lives.

"That absurd and dangerous stage must be suppressed," said Toyota driver Luis Moya of Spain.

"Spectators spill snow on the road and endanger our lives. It is not a joke, it is our lives," Sainz added.

A huge crowd gathers every year on the slopes of the Turini for the highlight of the race's final night stage.

One of two timed specials on the pass was cancelled on Tuesday night after spectators had lit a fire on the course.

"In the first stage, it's all right. But by the second time we drive up the pass, spectators get drunk and throw missiles on the road," said Kankkunen.

"I can't understand their behaviour. We fight for seconds, we take risks and that's something they should respect," said Auriol.

Olympic chiefs brush off sex test storm

ALBERTVILLE, France (R)—The doctor at the centre of a storm over new Olympic sex tests for women athletes branded his critics sportsbores Wednesday and said screening would continue French concerns over medical ethics.

"It is a pity for the Olympic Games but it has not affected us at all," said Dr. Bernard Dinguon, who devised the genetic test for the Feb. 8-23 Albertville Winter Olympics.

He told Reuters his test was more reliable than the one it replaced, less intrusive than a physical examination and was conducted "in the spirit of the Olympic Movement" and the law.

Controversy over the test flared Tuesday when the Ethics Commission of the French Medical Association warned French doctors of possible disciplinary action if they carried it out.

Association President Louis Rene called the test mistaken and uncontrolled. He argued that medical secrecy would be violated if an athlete was publicly disqualified and said the test could in effect ban women who could bear children from competition.

"Dr. Dinguon, a biochemist, acknowledged that such a situation could arise but said the chances were remote. "One in 50,000 women who could conceive might not be able to compete. With 1,000 women competitors that is once every 50 games," he said.

French women taking the test Wednesday were unimpressed by the furor. Top Olympic officials rallied to Dr. Dinguon's method and said the test alone would not be used to decide whether a competitor was not quite female.

The Ethics Commission has given its opinion and this is quite legitimate and respectable. But the Olympic Charter says there are certain things one has to go through for the games to go ahead normally," former ski star Jean-Claude Killy, joint chairman of the games Organising Committee, told French radio.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical Commission, said he regretted charges that were "close to disinformation."

"Our critics seem to forget that no decision is taken before a full clinical test is undergone after the molecular test. We won't be lectured to," Prince de Merode said.

Like its predecessor, known as the Barr test, the Dinguon method screens for anomalies by laboratory analysis of cell samples scraped from the inside a competitor's mouth.

Dr. Dinguon's procedure looks for the presence of the male "Y" chromosome while the Barr test checked the "double-X" female chromosomes.

"The old test sought to establish that a woman was female. We set out to prove she is not a man," Dr. Dinguon said.

Critics say the test is unreliable and reveals too much. "The search for cheats does not authorize all investigations," the French Medical Association said. France's ministers for health and sports have written to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to urge him to ensure tests were conducted only with athletes' consent. They demanded strict confidentiality and supplementary tests in cases of doubt.

Patrick Schamasch, head of medical services for the Albertville organisers, said the ministers' wishes coincided with IOC recommendations.

Mr. Schamasch, himself a member of the Regional Medical Association, said he was unconcerned by threats of disciplinary action and accused critics of using the games to grab attention. "I would have preferred concern about ethics to have been raised six months ago and not eight days before the games," he said.

Dinguon will screen only those women who do not have a valid gender verification certificate from a previous Olympics. He has so far tested about 25 women, including three young Mexicans

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Navratilova wins season's first match

TOKYO (AP)—Martina Navratilova, admitting to a bit of nerves in recent matches, opened her 1992 season with a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki Wednesday, saying she still wants to regain the No. 1 ranking. Navratilova started flawlessly but acknowledged that her serves became shorter and errors crept in on her passing shots as the second-round match wore on in the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament. "I skipped the Australian Open and this tournament is my first one for this season. Because of my age, I have to choose my schedule very carefully," said the 35-year-old American, now ranked No. 4 in the world. "But I am eager to regain the world's No. 1 position. If I play consistently, regardless of the Grand Slam events or other tournaments, I will be No. 1 again," she added.

2 seeds ousted at Auckland Classic

AUCKLAND (AP)—Robin White used her powerful serve to defeat No. 4 seed Veronika Martinek of Germany 6-2, 6-1, Wednesday in the second round of the \$100,000 Nutri-Metics Classic women's tennis tournament. Monique Javer of Britain also upset a seeded player, ousting No. 7 Susan Sloane-Landy of the United States 6-1, 6-3. In other second round matches, No. 3 seed Larisa Savchenko-Neiland of Latvia beat Cristina Tassi of Argentina 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and No. 8 Bettina Fulco-Villella of Argentina beat Sandrine Testud of France 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. White lost the first two games against Martinek, but then powered to victory in just 51 minutes. She dropped just five points on serve in the second set and put Martinek under pressure by rushing the net at every opportunity. "It was one of those days when everything worked," White said.

USOC sues over use of Olympic name

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The U.S. Olympic Committee has filed suit claiming Regal Sports Vacations has misled the public by using the word "Olympic" in its advertising and promotions. The USOC claims the travel agency is infringing on the committee's trademark and engaging in unfair competition. It also accuses Regal of doing business "under a variety of false and misleading names," including "Olympic Tours," "The Regal Olympic Club" and "Regal Travel Olympic Tours." The company offers tour packages to the Olympics and other major sporting events, company President George King said. Mr. King said the USOC suit was a surprise because the committee never has complained in the past. "We have never used anything improperly," he said. "What would you rather call the Olympics, the Indy 500?"

Australian substitute upsets Swedes

ADELAIDE (R)—Substitute Alistair Edwards scored Australia's first international goal for nine months with virtually his first kick to earn them a 1-0 victory over European Championship

hosts Sweden Wednesday. Edwards struck in the 77th minute of a generally disappointing match to end nearly three hours of deadlock, the sides' first clash in Sydney having ended goalless. The Sydney Olympic striker, who has had experience in British soccer with Glasgow Rangers and Brighton, ran on to a through ball to calmly curl his shot past debutant Swedish goalkeeper Jonnie Fedel. The goal followed a defence-dominated match, hindered by a clogged midfield in which Stefan Rehn, Sweden's former Everton midfielder, stood out.

Jury for Tyson trial nearly complete

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R)—Six more jurors were chosen Tuesday for Mike Tyson's rape trial, leaving one more regular juror to be selected to decide if the former world heavyweight boxing champion raped a beauty pageant queen. Four alternate jurors were also left to be picked for Tyson's highly publicized trial expected to last about two weeks. Tyson, 25, is accused of raping an 18-year-old Rhode Island woman last July when she was in Indianapolis to compete in the Miss Black America Beauty pageant. If convicted, the fighter could be sent to prison for 63 years on the four counts lodged against him—rape, two charges of criminal deviate conduct and one charge of confinement. Tyson denies the charges, saying the woman agreed to a date with him and then agreed to have sex in his hotel room.

Kiwis fastest of challengers

SAN DIEGO, California (R)—New Zealand was the fastest boat on the third day of America's Cup Challengers' match-racing Tuesday. New Zealand completed the 32-kilometre race in two hours, 26 minutes, 39 seconds to beat Challenge Australia by just over five minutes. That was also more than half an hour faster than the day's slowest boat, Espana 92 of Spain, which lost to Ville De Paris. In other races, Spirit of Australia beat Sweden's Tre Kronor and Nippon, the Japanese boat, beat Italy's Il Moro Di Venezia. Il Moro Di Venezia failed to pick up one of the by-now regular course alterations due to wind shifts before the second windward mark, and lost four minutes—and apparently the race. But Nippon's victory was then thrown in doubt when on-the-water judges claimed the Japanese crew were flying a spinnaker without its being attached to a spinnaker pole. An international jury which heard the protest Tuesday night said there was a rules infringement but let Nippon's victory stand.

Tomba to fly the flag for Italy

ROME (R)—Italian Alpine skiing hero Alberto Tomba will take time out from preparations for the Winter Olympics to carry his country's flag at the opening ceremony in Albertville on Feb. 8. Italian Olympic officials said Tomba, gold medalist in slalom and giant slalom at Calgary four years ago, would be the standard-bearer for their 125-strong squad. Tomba, who has recorded seven World Cup wins this season, is strongly tipped for another double gold haul. He opens the defence of his titles in the giant slalom.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY, 30, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With no aspects in effect today you can avoid disrupting influences that are present by making a conscious effort to maintain a pleasant and agreeable disposition with associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whatever activities are of a public or private nature can be handled early with considerable dispatch if without much inspiration by you now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think of the various contacts you have with those at a distance and use this good day to get in touch with and reassure them of your continuing interest.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Uplift your mood so that you can best to do right by making more money from whatever your income and in the evening turn your thoughts to communications.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day to conclude decisions about what you most want of a personal nature in your life and then get into financial matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A well rounded campaign to gain your private objectives is good in the morning while later you can make up your mind about outside personal aims.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Wind up gaining the various conditions dear to your heart in the

morning after which you can gain some support of your attachment for a pet project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Many ideas for adding to your public progress in the morning are good for to follow after which you can get into the personal desires that animate you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Complete some advanced arrangements which you have been considering, then you will be able to get together with influential persons able to gain them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can get rid of obligations to free time and assets and then be able to be off to new scenes and interests and make them benefit you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You can tackle activities of the public nature with their assistance, then get into the actual work required by you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can tackle activities of a career nature with enthusiasm in the morning and then put your efforts into tasks of a more public nature.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY, 31, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take off your shell today and do some things you really want and need to do without any direction or input from a recent entry in your life who is taking more time than you want to give.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to force expression of your talent early but soon you find that you will have a good time to see it from a larger angle and make headway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be careful with a delicate matter at your residence early but then you can get together with those able to show you have to increase your security.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A communication early can be a cause of anxiety for you but don't worry for soon you see the answer to solve a situation from an outside partner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Hold off from some money matter in the morning hours but later you see ways by which you can better your work so you have more income.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your instincts early are not good so don't follow them until later when your attachment has the right idea on how you can gain with ease what you desire.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A nagging worry should not be encouraged after breakfast but la-

ter you find you can join with family in some private enjoyment that means much to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A call is not ready to go along with your plan of action until it has been further thought out by this person which happens in the afternoon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Avoid one in authority who is not in the mood to be approached early although later this person is most receptive to well thought arrangements.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't go off on a tangent early but make your new goals more well planned and you find as the day progresses they get closer to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Don't pay an account until you are sure that it is correct but upon doublechecking you can find ways to attend to any obligation more efficiently.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about how you can get along with an older associate or partner and make arrangements to do something special to show this ambition.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't let an associate get under your skin with a remark early but as the day passes you find you come into better and rapport as is you both desire.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ A K 5 3 2
♦ 4
♣ A 10 8 6 4

WEST
♠ 2
♥ 7 6 5 4
♦ J 10 7
♣ J 10 8 7

EAST
♠ 9 6 4
♥ K 5 3 2
♦ Q
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 9
♥ 8
♦ A Q
♣ 9 7 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 4NT Pass
5♥ Pass 6NT Pass
6♥ Pass 6♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Watching a master technician at work on a bridge hand is like studying an artist applying delicate brush strokes to a canvas. To land this close spaced slam, South had to utilize fully the combined assets of the two hands.

With a self-sufficient suit and control in the unbid suit, South started with a jump shift, then pressed on to slam when North's second suit proved to be clubs. Fortunately, South chose to go for 12 tricks in spades rather than clubs.

West led the jack of diamonds, removing any worries declarer might have had about that suit. It might seem that everything hinged on a 2-2 club break, but declarer found a way to improve the odds considerably.

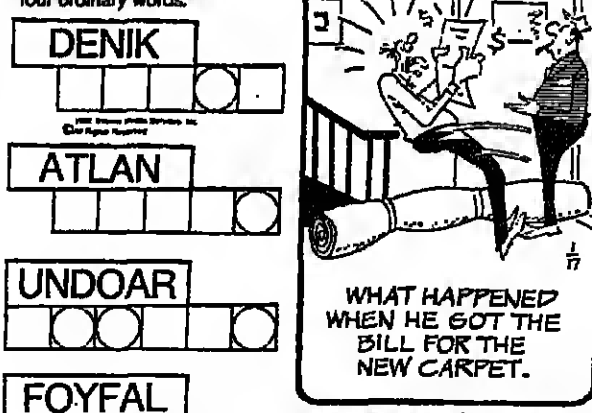
After capturing the king of diamonds with the ace, declarer tested trumps by cashing the ace. When both defenders followed, declarer next went after the heart suit. After playing off the ace and king, discarding a club on the latter, declarer ruffed a heart in hand, and the 4-3 split to that suit meant declarer no longer needed the blessings of Dame Fortune in clubs.

Declarer entered dummy one more time by ruffing the good queens of diamonds, then set up a long heart with a ruff. After drawing trumps, it was a simple matter for declarer to cross to dummy's ace of clubs to cash the long heart. In all, declarer scored six trump tricks in hand and a diamond ruff to dummy, three heart tricks and the rubber suit ace for a total of 12 tricks.

Note that declarer had to draw exactly one round of trumps, to check on the break while leaving a trump on the table as an entry via a diamond ruff. Well played!

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

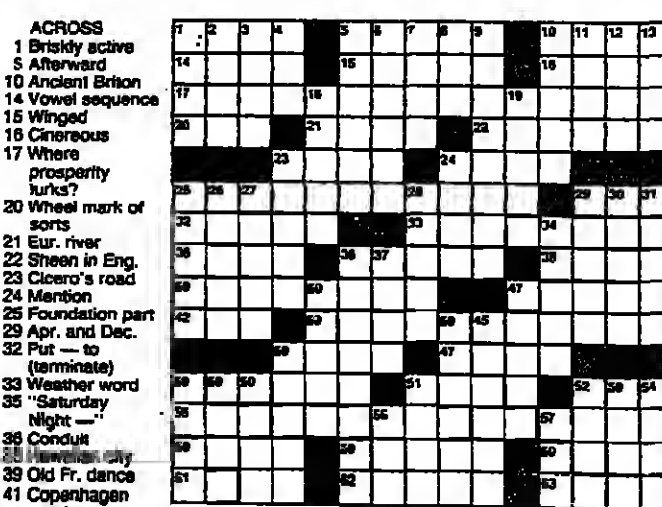


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HE WAS _____

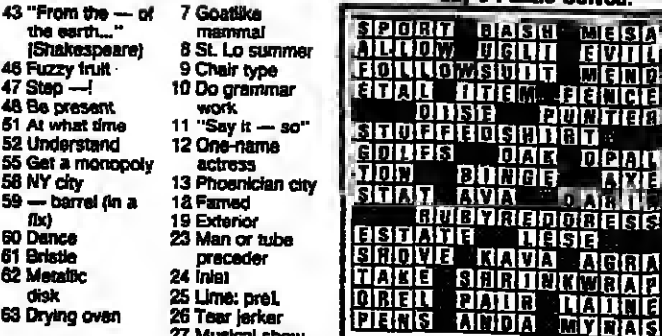
Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS FAINT MATRON GASKET
Answer: That playboy combined the talent for spending money with the talent for this—NOT MAKING IT

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



40. "— Romance" (Kern) 41. Yugoslavian river 44. Stick 45. — show (solo) 46. Robt's land 48. Deeds 49. Flipped 50. Run in a way 51. Sharpener 52. Sea bird 53. Scaleless fish 54. Coup d'— 56. Govt. agency 57. Gr. letter

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 28.1.92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 29.1.92
Sterling Pound	1.7920	1.8000
Deutsche Mark	1.5998	1.5995
Swiss Franc	1.4231	1.4145
French Franc	5.4525	5.4120
Japanese Yen	125.79	125.17
European Currency Unit	1.2760	1.2855

1SD Per STG
European Opening: 10:00 a.m. GMT

Barocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.00	4.06	4.37
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.50	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	2.56	2.43	2.38	2.12
Swiss Franc	7.57	7.37	7.31	7.06
French Franc	9.81	9.87	9.75	9.68
Japanese Yen	5.36	5.06	4.81	4.75
European Currency Unit	10.51	10.25	10.19	9.93

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 S.D. or equivalent

Precious Metals	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.75	6.75	Silver	4.15	.095

31 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.676	0.678
Sterling Pound	1.2171	1.2232
Deutsche Mark	0.3249	0.3270
Swiss Franc	0.777	0.801
French Franc	0.1253	0.1267
Japanese Yen	0.00565	0.00572
Dutch Guilder	0.3774	0.3793
Swedish Krona	0.1162	0.1168
Italian Lira	0.0566	0.0569
Belgian Franc	0.0200	0.0200

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7640	1.7780
Lebanese Lira	0.0768	0.0773
Saudi Riyal	0.1800	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1832	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7350
UAE Dirham	0.1832	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3635	0.3745
Cypriot Pound	1.4640	1.5120

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	27.1.92	Close	28.1.92	Close
All-Share	135.88		135.96	
Banking Sector	110.42		110.62	
Insurance Sector	131.88		131.71	
Industry Sector	168.16		168.05	
Services Sector	152.07		152.42	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8045/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1755/60	Canadian dollar
	1.5870/80	Deutsche marks
	1.7870/80	Dutch guilders
	1.4155/62	Swiss francs
	32.70/74	Belgian francs
	5.4100/50	French francs
	1193/1194	Italian lire
	125.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.7710/60	Swedish crowns
	6.2325/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.1575/1625	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	355.80/356.30	U.S. dollars

Lack of natural gas halts Polish industries

WARSAW (R) — Poland received a painful reminder of its economic dependence on Russia with the collapse of a barter deal on natural gas supplies with Moscow.

For almost a week, steel mills and metal foundries, ceramic and glass works and fertilizer plants have been idle, burning only enough gas to save machinery from damage.

Poland has had to negotiate a new agreement and it will be several days before the plants can start operating again.

The 2.8 billion deal forged in late December guaranteed Poland supplies of 8.1 billion cubic metres of natural gas and five million tonnes of oil in 1992 in return for Polish food, sulphur, coal and pharmaceutical goods.

But Polish officials said a decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin allowing Russian companies to keep part of their foreign currency earnings invalidated the barter deal.

As a result, gas supplies from Russia were almost halved on Jan. 1. Plants came to a halt about three weeks later as cold weather boosted domestic energy consumption.

Polish Foreign Trade Minister Adam Glapinski found out that the deal had lapsed when he made an emergency trip to Moscow Monday.

Russian officials assured him that daily supplies of Russian natural gas would be increased on Feb. 1 under a new deal which

would bring annual supplies to 6.6 billion cubic metres, with a possible increase to 7.1 billion cubic metres.

"The stoppage will have to continue until deliveries are actually increased," said Janusz Tokarzewski, a manager at Poland's National Gas Distributing Company.

Poland imports two thirds of its natural gas, all of it from Russia. In 1991 7.5 billion cubic metres flowed in through two pipelines built in the years when Poland was virtually a Soviet satellite.

Mr. Tokarzewski said Poland had talked to several Western firms for the last two years on building a pipeline from the West, but had made little progress.

The chairman of the main mining board, Janusz Steinhoff, told the Nowy Swiat newspaper that Poland's continued dependence on Russia for gas supplies was a serious problem.

"The policy pursued for over 40 years has undermined our national energy security. No reasonable government of a sovereign state can afford to have the national energy supply pattern rely on a single energy source," he said.

Mr. Steinhoff said the board was considering extracting methane coal deposits as an alternative to Russian gas but this would involve entering a whole new field of technology.

Some bread prices go up again in Russia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Bakers said Tuesday that some bread prices, those for the highest-quality loaves, are going up once again because of increases in the cost of flour.

Protests of higher prices were reported on the far western and eastern edges of Russia. But in the central Asian republic Kyrgyzstan the price of bread, flour and cakes was to drop by about 30 per cent, to be subsidised by an increase in cost of liquor, the Russian Information Agency said.

"Price increases will affect only the top quality white bread for which government price controls already have been lifted. All other controlled prices for dark bread and white bread made from lower-quality flours remain unchanged.

While the price increases represent more bad news for consumers, it is unlikely to anger people like the initial jump in prices that accompanied the beginning of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reforms on Jan. 2.

Many bakery shops do not regularly carry supplies of such high-quality bread that now cost about 3.75 roubles a loaf.

Valentina Borisova, director of bread factory 22 on Moscow's north side, said the price of top-quality flour jumped about 25 per cent beginning Jan. 25, and that the cost is being passed on to bread stores.

"Stores, in turn, set their own prices, which are equal to wholesale delivery prices plus 25 per cent," she said.

At bread factory 8, Olga Markina said her factory had enough flour left at the old prices to last until Feb. 1, and would decide then what to do about its prices. The average Russian worker makes about 960 roubles a month, and the higher prices have made it difficult for many to get by.

The widely used unofficial exchange rate is about 100 roubles to a dollar, meaning the average salary translates into less than \$10.

The Russian Information Agency reported that factory and

office workers stopped work for two hours Tuesday in the Birobidjan Jewish autonomous region to protest the higher prices.

Radio Russia, quoted by the British Broadcasting Corp. in London, said thousands of people rallied in the western city of Kaliningrad against higher prices.

"Some veterans called for a dictatorship of the proletariat, seeing off the democrats, and returning to the good old times of stagnation," the radio said.

The Interfax News Agency quoted Russia's National Public Opinion Research Centre as saying a survey found 68 per cent of those polled found Mr. Yeltsin's price increases hurt their families more than expected.

Politicians took responses from 1,020 people in 13 cities, and the margin of error was three per cent.

Meanwhile, official figures showed that Russian living standards have dropped last year and unemployment was rising, fast.

A report by the Russian State Statistics Committee said the cost of a basket of basic food and consumer goods had risen more than fourfold since June last year and was now more than the average monthly wage.

Food production in 1991 fell by nine per cent and output of most consumer goods fell by between two and six per cent, said the report, published by TASS news agency.

In a separate report, TASS quoted Fyodor Prokopov, the chairman of the Russian Employment Committee, as saying the country's unemployed could number seven to eight million by October.

This compared with 60,000 registered jobless at the start of the year, 70 per cent of whom were women, he said.

Mr. Prokopov's gloomy forecast was based on the Polish experience of radical economic reforms, involving price liberalisation, privatisation and cuts in public spending.

The employment committee has opened 2,000 employment offices in Russia, which has a population of 150 million.

IBM Japan cuts salaries of directors over poor results

TOKYO (Agencies) — IBM Japan Ltd. has decided to cut this year's pay for directors and freeze executives' salaries in response to poor business results, a company spokesman said.

The company slashed the salary of the president by 10 per cent, executive directors by eight per cent, and directors by five per cent, said spokesman Tadashi Okamura. Thirty-three directors were affected.

A pay hike for executives will be suspended until the company's business outlook becomes more promising, Mr. Okamura said.

The IBM group, headquartered in Armonk, N.Y., suffered a loss in 1991 for the first time ever, but only the IBM Japan unit so far has acknowledged management's responsibility in this way. Kyoto News Service reported.

International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. of the United States, IBM Japan's parent, is also reportedly discussing a reduction in directors' pay.

Executive salaries have become a touchy trade issue between Japan and the United States. Japanese executives contend U.S. corporate heads are overpaid and fail to accept responsibility for poor performance by taking pay cuts or resigning.

The IBM group posted a loss of \$2.8 billion in 1991. Analysts attributed the setback in part to heightened global competition and IBM's failure to respond. The group decided last December to reduce its work force by 20,000.

Meanwhile, IBM, the world's biggest computer company has won a two-horse race to partner France's state-owned computer maker, CIE des Machines Bull, in a major trans-Atlantic tie up.

Industry sources said IBM, which beat U.S. rival Hewlett-Packard Co. to take an equity stake of 5.7 per cent of the loss-making French company at a cost of around \$100 million.

IBM and Bull said they would together sign far-reaching manufacturing agreements with a potential value of hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

"In a very competitive sector, few survive," French Prime Minister Edith Cresson said, explaining the deal.



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U.S. plans record spending in new budget

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush sent Congress a \$152 trillion election-year budget Wednesday that foresees a modest economic recovery and uses a small reduction in military spending to offset a tax break.

The record U.S. government spending plan for the 1993 financial year beginning on Oct. 1, details the economic growth package outlined by Mr. Bush in his annual state of the union address before Congress on Tuesday night.

The budget includes proposed tax breaks for investors, homebuyers, businesses and families and record spending for research and development, education and the head start programme to aid poor pre-school children.

Mr. Bush proposed slashing military spending by \$9 billion in 1993 to \$285.9 billion from \$295.2 billion in the current financial year.

Mr. Bush called for military spending cuts of \$50 billion through financial 1997. But that five-year plan could spark bitter fighting in Congress, where Democratic lawmakers demand a bigger peace dividend from the Soviet collapse.

Despite the tax breaks and spending increases, the budget plan estimates the budget deficit will drop to \$351.9 billion in fiscal 1993 after ballooning to a staggering \$399.4 billion in the current financial year.

The budget proposes renegotiating the 1990 budget agreement, using savings from the military to offset revenue losses from a proposed \$500 per child increase in the personal tax exemption.

The budget plan assumes the U.S. economy will expand by a modest 2.2 per cent from the end of 1991 through the end of 1992 and that growth will pick up steam later in the year.

It foresees gross domestic product — the broadest measure of output of goods and services — growing by three per cent from the fourth quarter of 1991 through the end of 1992.

Mr. Bush, whose popularity among voters has slumped along with the economy, is anxious to see growth and employment picking up by the November elections.

The package will add nearly half of one per cent to growth each year through 1997, the administration said. "This economic growth package" should create an additional half a million jobs during the next four years, the budget document said.

But the unemployment rate, which hit 7.1 per cent in December, is expected to fall only slightly to 6.8 per cent by the end of the year. Unemployment is forecast to fall to 6.4 per cent by the end of 1993.

Mr. Bush proposed reducing the tax on capital gains from the sale of stocks and other assets to 15.4 per cent from 28 per cent and a temporary tax allowance on new investments.

Mr. Bush's plan also will allow a \$5,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers.

With the exception of social security, Mr. Bush proposed reducing growth in mandatory spending for social welfare programmes by \$68.4 billion by 1997 and freezing new spending on domestic programmes at \$203.1 billion.

BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (B.U.C.)

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Bush proposes \$286b 1993 defence budget

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush Wednesday sent a \$285.9 billion 1993 defence budget to Congress calling for drastic weapons cuts, including cancellation of the Seawolf attack submarine and slashing the B-2 Stealth bomber programme.

The defence plan, part of the Bush administration's proposed federal budget for the 1993 financial year starting on Oct. 1, seeks military outlays the Pentagon said are nearly \$10 billion below outlays for the current year of \$295.2 billion.

Mr. Bush called for defence spending cuts of \$50 billion through fiscal 1997. But that five-year plan could spark bitter fighting in Congress, where Democrats have demanded a bigger peace dividend from the Soviet collapse.

The five-year proposal makes no cuts in U.S. troop levels beyond the 400,000 earlier planned for the next three years. It leaves the U.S. armed forces at 1.6 million after 1995.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told Congress in a message that slower development of high-tech weapons along with major programme cuts, including \$31.5 billion saved by cancelling the Seawolf submarine and shrinking the B-2 fleet to 20 planes, will suffice.

"The national security picture for the United States has changed substantially since last year," Mr. Cheney said in a message to Congress. "We can now afford to be more deliberate in the pace at which we modernise our armed forces."

The Seawolf move would be a blow to General Dynamics Corp., which is building the first of what were originally expected to be up to 30 Seawolves at nearly \$1 billion each.

Mr. Bush himself announced in his State of the Union speech to Congress Tuesday night that he had decided to slash production of Northrop Corp's radar-evading B-2 Stealth bomber to only 20 instead of the 75 the air force had requested.

Billions have already been spent on research, development and construction of the first three B-2s. If only 20 are built, the average cost is expected to be

over \$2 billion each, making it the most expensive U.S. weapon ever.

The Defence and Energy Departments are also expected to save billions of dollars in reductions proposed by Mr. Bush in multi-warhead nuclear missiles — if republicans in the former Soviet Union agree to make similar cuts.

The exact nuclear savings are not yet clear, although Mr. Bush told Congress Tuesday night he expected progress on such cuts in talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin Saturday at Mr. Bush's Camp David mountain retreat.

Mr. Cheney said that while the Pentagon will put fewer new advanced weapons systems into production in the future, it will continue aggressive pursuit of new technologies to maintain the U.S. high-tech advantage in defence systems.

In the future, he said, a weapons programme will move to full-scale production only after verifying the need for producing the system and after minimising technical, manufacturing and operational risks.

Mr. Bush unveiled an election-year plan for ending the recession and demanded Congress enact it before the end of March.

For the most part, Mr. Bush offered general proposals in his State of the Union address Tuesday — with many details to come Wednesday with the formal release of his budget proposal for the next fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1.

Invoking the rhetorical echoes of the Gulf war, Mr. Bush vowed that the recession "will not stand."

With the November presidential election clearly influencing the tone of his speech — and the reaction of rival Democrats to it — the president called for a freeze on partisan politics.

"I know, and you know, that my plan is unveiled in a political season," Mr. Bush told the lawmakers. "I know, and you know, that everything I propose will be viewed by some in merely partisan terms."

"But let me tell you: Far more important than my political future — and far more important than yours — is the well-being of

our country," he said.

Mr. Bush offered what he called "some practical advice" to the Democrats. "When people put their party's fortunes before the public good, they court defeat not only for their country, but for themselves. And they will certainly deserve it."

Democrats were largely unmoved by Mr. Bush's proposals or his March 20 deadline for enacting them.

The most dramatic proposal in Mr. Bush's speech was his call for new cuts in long-range nuclear missiles and the slashing of production of B-2 bombers.

Although the move would free funds for domestic programmes, it carries a severe toll — forcing defence contractors to do away with thousands of jobs as their business is taken away.

Faced with Democratic efforts to extend jobless benefits in the face of rising unemployment, Mr. Bush struck back saying he wanted an extra \$4.4 billion for the unemployed.

House Speaker Thomas Foley said the Democrats would seek common ground with Mr. Bush but predicted a fight, particularly over Mr. Bush's push to cut capital gains taxes from 28 per cent to 15.4 per cent — dismissed by Democrats as helping only the rich.

"We will stand our ground," Mr. Foley vowed.

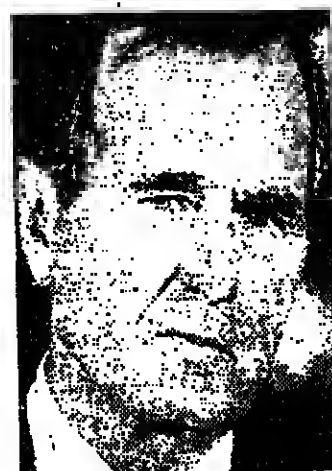
In a move likely to generate wide support, Mr. Bush proposed an increase in the personal tax exemption for children by \$500 over the current \$2,300.

To spur the stagnant housing industry, he proposed a \$5,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers and also would let them withdraw funds from individual retirement accounts without penalty if used to buy a home.

He also asked for a freeze on spending and federal hiring, and renewed his call for authority to veto items of the budget line by line, instead of approving all or none of it.

Foreign leaders praise Bush

President Bush got top marks internationally Wednesday for the nuclear cutbacks he announced in his State of the Union address and his economic revival plans were also wel-



George Bush

comed.

Some observers said Mr. Bush's commitment to government economic restraint, along with the election-year tax breaks and business incentives he announced, would help the world economy.

"It's a sound commitment which would be good for world economy and therefore the new world order and world peace," Bahrain Information Minister Tariq Almoayed said in the capital of his Gulf state.

In Japan, which has long criticised America for what it considers lax fiscal policies, Mr. Bush's economic plans and nuclear cuts were generally welcomed.

"We believe the tax exemptions for stimulating investment in equipment will be effective in increasing companies' international competitiveness," said Takeshi Nagano head of the influential Japan Federation of Employers' Associations.

But Akira Kodama, manager of the Japanese Central Bank's International Department, warned that the tax cuts mean "the red ink will increase... that could lead to higher interest rates."

In the Japanese government's only official comment, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said the offer to Russia to eliminate all land-based multiple-warhead nuclear weapons was "a contribution to the building of world peace and security and the building of a new world order."

The nuclear cuts attracted a lot of attention.

"The president's measures are a further step in reversing the process of nuclear competition between superpowers," said British Prime Minister John Major.

But Britain's Conservative government reiterated it will not cut back on its \$9 billion purchase of U.S. Trident missiles to modernise its own nuclear arsenal.

Yeltsin announces major nuclear arms cuts

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin Wednesday announced deep cuts in Russia's nuclear arms programmes, saying some 600 strategic nuclear missiles have been taken off alert and production of long-range nuclear bombers is being sharply curbed.

The Russian president's first major address on disarmament since the Soviet Union died last month came just hours after President George Bush outlined similar cuts and a day before he is to leave for a trip to London and New York.

On Friday, he is to participate in a U.N. Security Council session.

"Nuclear weapons and other mass destruction means of the world must be eliminated," Mr. Yeltsin said in the speech, which was broadcast to the nation. As long as those weapons remain, he said, "we believe... they should no longer be aimed at corresponding targets in Russia and America."

He said he has urged the leaders of Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, the other former Soviet republics with nuclear arms, to institute similar moves.

Mr. Yeltsin said arms cutbacks could allow Russia to focus on urgent domestic needs and reform its worsening economy. Just hours before, Mr. Bush offered in his State of the Union address to eliminate 1,500 of 2,000 nuclear warheads on U.S. land-based missiles, reduce by one-third the number of warheads on sea-based missiles and convert some bombers to non-nuclear roles.

Mr. Bush said he had discussed the offer with Mr. Yeltsin and that the Russian President's response had been positive.

Mr. Yeltsin said the Russian land- and sea-based nuclear missiles taken off alert carry a total of 1,250 nuclear warheads.

"I want to emphasise that we are not talking about our unilateral disarmament," he said.

"The United States is taking parallel steps in a gesture of goodwill. It is now possible and necessary to move much further along this road."

Mr. Bush's offer was conditioned on the former Soviet states agreeing to eliminate their most potent land-based missiles, which carry 2,460 warheads. It was not clear how many of those warheads have been taken off alert.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would be prepared to eliminate all existing sea-based long-range nuclear missiles if the United States agreed to do the same.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin are to meet at the U.S. president's retreat in Camp David, Maryland, Saturday.

Mr. Yeltsin urged in his speech that Britain, China and France "join the process of all-out nuclear disarmament," and emphasised that Russia has taken on Soviet obligations in the area of arms control and treaties.

His comments referred only to actions by Russia, not Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, which he urged to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as non-nuclear states.

Mr. Yeltsin asked his own parliament, as well as those of the other three Commonwealth nuclear states, to quickly ratify the treaty on slashing long-range nuclear weapons concluded with the United States last year.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia has decided to:

- Dismantle the launching systems aboard six nuclear-armed submarines.
- Stop production of TU-160 and TU-95MS heavy bombers.
- Stop production of long-range air-based and sea-based cruise missiles.
- Stop programmes to design or modernise several types of long-range offensive nuclear weapons.

Mr. Yeltsin also proposed the creation of an international agency to ensure nuclear arms reduction.

The Russian President said 130 land-based missile silos have been eliminated or are being prepared for elimination.

Mr. Yeltsin said long-range nuclear missiles stationed in Ukraine will be dismantled within a shorter period of time than previously planned and said the number of nuclear-armed submarines on patrol would be cut in half.

He said Russia was prepared to stop such patrols altogether if the United States follows suit.

"The measures we are taking in arms control will by no means undermine the defence capability of Russia and the Commonwealth states," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Azeri helicopter downed over Karabakh; 40 killed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An Azeri civilian helicopter has been shot down in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, killing about 40 people and prompting fears of a fresh round of fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Azeri mission in Moscow said Armenian militants had used a heat-seeking missile Tuesday to down the craft in the enclave, scene of a protracted struggle between the two republics.

There was no immediate reaction from Armenia.

TASS news agency said around 40 people died, while interfax put the death toll at 47.

At least 1,000 people have been killed in four years of fighting between Armenian and Azeri gunmen over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians but located in and ruled by Azerbaijan.

Clashes have already intensified markedly over the last few days. More than 60 people were reported to have been killed over the weekend in fighting in the region.

Musa Mamedov, appointed governor of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov, earlier appealed to the members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to stop what he claimed aggression against Azeris in the enclave.

TASS said Mr. Mamedov's appeal, also addressed to the European Community and U.S. President George Bush, called for help "to keep the Armenian secessionists within the bounds of prudence and political responsibility."

Mr. Mamedov said Azerbaijan favoured the most resolute political measures to resolve the situation but said Baku wanted to continue the negotiating process.

Last November the two republics seemed headed for war after an Azeri helicopter crash in which at least 20 people were killed, including senior Azeri officials and peace negotiators from Russia and Kazakhstan.

Azerbaijan said the helicopter was shot down by Armenian militants. Armenia rejected the accusations, saying the craft hit a mountain in bad weather.

The Azeri parliament annulled the territory's autonomous status, but major conflict was averted after peace efforts by other republics in the then Soviet Union.

Fighting over the region increased late last year after Rus-

sian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the withdrawal of troops there.

Azeri forces already have been active in the area for months, inflicting heavy damage on Armenian-populated villages along the border.

Mr. Mutalibov's spokesman, Vaghi Rustamov, said the Azerbaijani helicopter was flying over the capital, Stepanakert. It was heading to the town of Shusha from the Azeri village of Agdam.

The Armenian mission in Moscow confirmed the downing but asserted the helicopter was "presumably carrying weapons and ammunition to Azerbaijanis who have been attacking the Armenian village of Karintag (between Stepanakert and Shusha) for the past three days," said spokesman Myana Minakian.

In Baku, 1,900 kilometres south of Moscow, Mr. Mutalibov looked tired and drawn as he reached for a cigarette and looked out at his office window in the former Communist Party Central Committee building.

Nagorno-Karabakh "diverts us from resolving all our basic problems," Mr. Mutalibov said. "This Nagorno-Karabakh issue is always whirling around us."

Unlike other Soviet cities, Baku is suffering less from the economic crisis and painful reforms meant to reverse it. The once oil-rich republic still has several wells to provide income.

On Baku's streets once dotted with mansions of pre-revolutionary oil barons, peddlers now stand behind kiosks selling everything from tangerines to Turkish jeans. And many stores are flourishing.

But any progress is slowed by the uncertainty caused by the simmering war with Armenia. The No. 1 problem for both states as they try to revive their economies and restore their cultures suppressed by Soviet rule.

Mr. Mutalibov said he had little hope the Commonwealth of Independent States could resolve the conflict between his nation and Armenia.

He suggested that the West, including the United States, send politicians and experts to Nagorno-Karabakh to get an objective picture of the conflict. Only then, Mr. Mutalibov said, would his government consider allowing United Nations peacekeeping troops on its territory.



World's first superconducting boat launched

TOKYO (AP) — An experimental boat using superconducting magnets instead of a propeller has been launched in western Japan and will undergo sea trials as soon as next month. A large yellow crane lowered the sleek Yamato-1 into the water at the Port of Kobe, 435 kilometres west of Tokyo, where the craft's equipment will be tested before beginning a series of trials at sea. Developers of the experimental boat say it is a prototype for future high-speed seacraft. The Yamato itself has a top speed of 8 knots, but engineers say technology may someday push boats much faster.

Jane Fonda undergoes surgery

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — Actress and exercise guru Jane Fonda underwent surgery for a knee injury she suffered in a skiing accident, a clinic spokesman said. Lanier Johnson, a spokesman for the Alabama Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Centre said Ms. Fonda underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair slightly torn cartilage in her right knee. Dr. James R. Andrews, the clinic's founder, performed the surgery and said the operation "went just fine." Mr. Johnson said in a statement. Dr. Andrews added that Ms. Fonda's "excellent physical condition" should speed her recovery. Mr. Johnson said. Her first videotape, Jane Fonda's Workout, featured high-impact aerobics, but her subsequent workout tapes featured low-impact routines, which are safer on the joints. Miss Fonda, 54, flew from Atlanta by private jet. Her new husband, cable television magnate Ted Turner, was not with her.

Iranian claims he is 152 years old

NICOSIA (AP) — If Syed Ahmad Musavian's age could ever be authenticated, he would beat the world record of human longevity. The Iranian farmer claims he is 152 years old. Tehran Radio said Musavian lives in Zagheh, a suburb of Khorramabad, capital of the western province of Lorestan. It did not give his date of birth, providing only the age he claims to be. That makes him 35 years older than Jeanne Louise Calment, a Frenchwoman who at 117 is listed in the 1992 Guinness Book of Records as the oldest living person in the world. The greatest authenticated age to which any human is known to have lived is 120 years. It was not immediately known if Iranian birth records were kept at the time of Musavian's alleged birth to prove his age. Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Musavian attributes his longevity to eating only fresh game and abjuring medicines. His favourite sport was riding horses which he's had to give up. But on a sunny day, he still walks for 30 minutes, the radio said.

Ontario doctors ban female circumcision

TORONTO (R) — Ontario doctors banned female circumcision after receiving requests to perform the procedure on a growing number of African immigrants and refugees. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario after a meeting, declared that any doctor who performs circumcision on women or infibulation would be found guilty of professional misconduct and could be barred from practising medicine in the province. The ban affects physicians only in Ontario, but the college is planning to lobby the federal government to make the procedure illegal nationwide. Circumcision involves cutting away the hood of the clitoris. Infibulation sews together the labia to prevent sexual intercourse. Doctors were also warned not to reverse an infibulation.

Actor Peter Falk sued by daughter

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Peter Falk's daughter sued him to get him to abide by an agreement to pay her college costs. The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that Falk, best known for his television portrayal of the rumpled detective Colombo, has stopped paying Catherine Falk's tuition and board at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.

Clinton: I'm not running on my life story

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrat Bill Clinton said Tuesday he wants to refocus his presidential campaign away from charges of infidelity and onto the faltering economy, declaring he was "running on my life's works, not my life story."

Campaigning at the Texas state capitol, the Arkansas governor unancted President George Bush for not fully funding education programmes for poor pre-school children. His speech made no mention of unsubstantiated charges he had a 12-year extramarital affair with a part-time cabaret singer and Arkansas state employee.

"What is the matter with this country when our priorities are so messed up we can't find \$5 billion for the poor children?" Mr. Clinton asked.

His appearance here, billed as a news conference, turned into a pep rally as supporters flooded the room to hear Mr. Clinton receive endorsements from dozens of Texas lawmakers.

Afterwards, however, reporters again asked Mr. Clinton about charges by Jennifer Flowers, who said in a paid interview with the Star tabloid that she had an affair with the governor. He has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Mr. Clinton said he wanted to get the focus of his campaign back on the economy and other domestic issues. "I'm running on my life's work — not my life story," he said.

During introductions, two Texas lawmakers appeared to refer to the Flowers charges.

"I don't know about you, but I want a strong man for president — not God," state Rep. Wilhelmina Delco told a cheering crowd and a laughing Mr. Clinton.

"The country is at risk," said state Sen. Carl Parker. "I'm not looking for somebody to vote for sainthood. I'm looking for a responsible leader to lead this nation."

Earlier, Mr. Clinton told a San Antonio audience that voters are more interested in substantive issues such as jobs, education and health care than "the cash-for-trash mentality that seems to be gripping the country."

Success of U.N. peace plan for Yugoslavia is in doubt

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — The U.N. Security Council is considering abandoning attempts to deploy peacekeepers in war-torn Yugoslavia because of continuing Serb and Croat objections, news reports said Wednesday.

U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding failed in talks Monday to persuade a Serb leader in Croatia to accept peacekeepers in the enclave he controls. On Tuesday, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman apparently also stalled over some unspecified points.

"There are differences in interpretation which must be resolved before the United Nations plan is implemented," Mr. Goulding reportedly told the Croatian News Agency (HINA) after talks with Mr. Tudjman Tuesday night.

Mr. Goulding left for the Serbian and federal capital Belgrade Wednesday for more talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Federal Defence Minister Gen. Blagoje Adzic and Borisav Jovic, a key Serb leader.

Mr. Goulding will then head to New York for a meeting of the Security Council, "after which I will either come back to Yugoslavia, or not," HINA quoted the envoy as saying.

Serbia and the Serb-dominated federal army have accepted the plan to deploy up to 10,000 peacekeepers in trouble spots in Croatia to keep warring Serbs and Croats apart. The plan foresees complete withdrawal of federal forces from Croatia and disarming of irregulars on both sides.

Imelda Marcos arrested, freed on bail

MANILA (R) — Former first lady Imelda Marcos was arrested on currency charges Wednesday but said tearfully her arrest had only boosted her chances of winning the Philippine presidential elections in the may.

In a scene akin to comic opera, the well-dressed 62-year-old widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos stepped from her \$2,000 a day suite right into the arms of a squad of policemen waiting for her outside the hotel lobby.

"An arrest warrant, ma'am," said a police lieutenant, handing her the document.

Surrounded by chanting fans, Mrs. Marcos spent a little over three hours in a police station in the Manila district of San Juan before her lawyers completed the

formality of filing a 30,000 peso (\$1,130) bail bond.

Turning her arrest to political advantage, Mrs. Marcos bawled home her presidential campaign — "a vote for Imelda is a vote for the poor."

"This is unbelievable... I am in a state of shock," she said at the police station where, biting her lips as tears rolled down her cheeks, she was fingerprinted while supporters screamed abuse at President Corason Aquino's government.

She refused to sign a document officially confirming she had been fingerprinted, telling reporters it referred to her as "a criminal."

"I think this will just strengthen my candidacy... I am even more

determined than ever because if I cannot stand up to this injustice, how much more the poor?" she said.

"If they can do this to the Marcoses who had been privileged to be leaders of this country for two decades, what can they do to the Filipino people?" she asked.

Mrs. Marcos, one of 10 candidates hoping to succeed Mrs. Aquino in presidential elections on May 11, fled into exile with her husband in 1986 at the height of a popular revolt.

Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii, imposed martial law during his rule and imprisoned hundreds of people without trial.

